

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, May 16, 1991

Published Since 1877



## Dream makers

Taking a break from installing the baptistry at Hawthorne Baptist Chapel in Indianapolis, Ind. are Kirk Caraway, left, and pastor Willie Rash. Caraway is one of 13 volunteers from First Church of Clinton, Miss., who spent a week helping make dreams come true for the Indiana church this spring. (BP Photo by Sarah Zimmerman)

## Celebrate Annuity Board Sunday, June 23

- (1) List in church newsletter and/or worship service bulletin the names of members who are retired ministers, church staff members, missionaries, or Baptist agency/institutional employees. Include a brief statement of their work or the last position they held.
- (2) Honor retired ministers, missionaries, or staff members in the morning worship service by having them stand, present a flower to each lady, and offer a special prayer of thanksgiving and blessing.
- (3) Honor retired ministers, missionaries, or staff members with a luncheon on June 23.
- (4) Place flowers in the church in honor of retired ministers, missionaries, and staff members.
- (5) Invite any minister, staff member, or widow who was serving your church at the time of retirement to return and be recognized in the service.
- (6) Name a new Sunday School class in honor of a retired minister.
- (7) Invite your state's annuity representative to preach and interpret the ministry of the Annuity Board.
- (8) Erect a plaque in honor of a long-time minister who has retired.
- (9) Invite a retired minister or missionary to speak on his/her vision for the Southern Baptist Convention or church.
- (10) Adopt An Annuitant by pledging \$50 a month for one year or give a single perpetual endowment of \$7500. (Call 1-800-262-0511 for details.)
- (11) If there is a retired minister or missionary in your church, have him or her visit with a children's Sunday School department to tell about his/her work.
- (12) Schedule a special prayer in the morning worship service to ask God's blessing on the work of the Annuity Board and for his comfort and grace for more than 20,000 annuitants receiving monthly benefits.

## Church Annuity Plan offers good news during difficult time

The unexpected can happen. Just ask Mel Craft of Jackson.

In October of 1983 Craft suffered a severe stroke that has left him walking with a cane and speaking with great difficulty.

"Mel was pastor of First Church of Richland when he had the stroke," said Mrs. Craft. "He suffered two other strokes the following year and I retired from teaching to care for him at home."

"Mel had to go on disability at the age of 53. We are so grateful to the Annuity Board and the benefits available through the Church Annuity Plan and disability insurance," she said.

Mera Hall of Clinton faced the unexpected death of her husband, Dan, in 1987.

"Dan was 59 when he died of a heart attack. We had five children. When he died, I had one daughter in college and a son in high school.

"My survivor benefits from the Church Annuity Plan helped my children get a college education," Hall said.

"The Annuity Board offered some

good news during a very difficult time," she said.

The good news these people received was because of their participation in several Annuity Board programs including the Church Annuity Plan.

The retirement plan offers a protection section for its members. This valuable family protection is funded from Cooperative Program dollars that match dollars contributed to a member's account by the member and his church.

These benefits can mean:

- receiving up to \$67,500 in special survivor benefits if the member dies prior to retirement or while receiving a disability benefit; and

- receiving up to \$300 a month if a member becomes disabled and unable to perform any gainful employment due to physical or mental incapacity.

In addition, up to \$35 each month can be credited to your retirement income account during your disability and your survivor benefits will remain.

"The Church Annuity Plan offers

significant up-front family protection that leaves a minister's dollars free to build his retirement security. It is an important benefit that many ministers overlook in the retirement plan," said Frank Schwall, senior vice president of Member Services.

"The disability benefits have been a life-saver," Mrs. Craft said. "We had to move out of a parsonage and were able to buy a home. Mel spends most of his day in a wheelchair reading, but can now walk with a cane."

"We cannot imagine what we would have done without the Annuity Board," she said.

"Amen," Craft said. "All preachers need to know about these benefits."

Mrs. Hall said her benefits through the Annuity Board meant she had some options.

"When Dan died I was able to keep my home and was not forced to immediately find a job to put food on the table."

"Planning for the unexpected is often put aside. It should be priority," Mrs. Hall said.



SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL

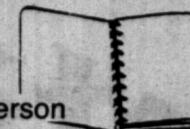
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Historical Commission, SBC

Nashville, Tennessee

# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



## The generation following

"Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following" (Psalm 48:13).

In February 1951, First Church, Meridian lost its pastor. Norman W. Cox resigned to become the first secretary of the newly established Historical Commission, and this year the Commission celebrates 40 years of service to Southern Baptists.

Prior to this, the promotion and preservation of our history was sporadic and many valuable documents were lost. W. O. Carver, professor at Southern Seminary, had championed the cause of history and considered it imperative that Baptists learn the lessons of their history. In 1938, the Historical Society was organized and much of the collected material was stored in the library at Southern Seminary.

In the first six years, the Commission transferred 4,887,498 pages of

history to microfilm. Thousands of church minutes and other historical documents were catalogued. The Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists was published in 1958. Lynn E. May Jr. has served as executive secretary since 1971.

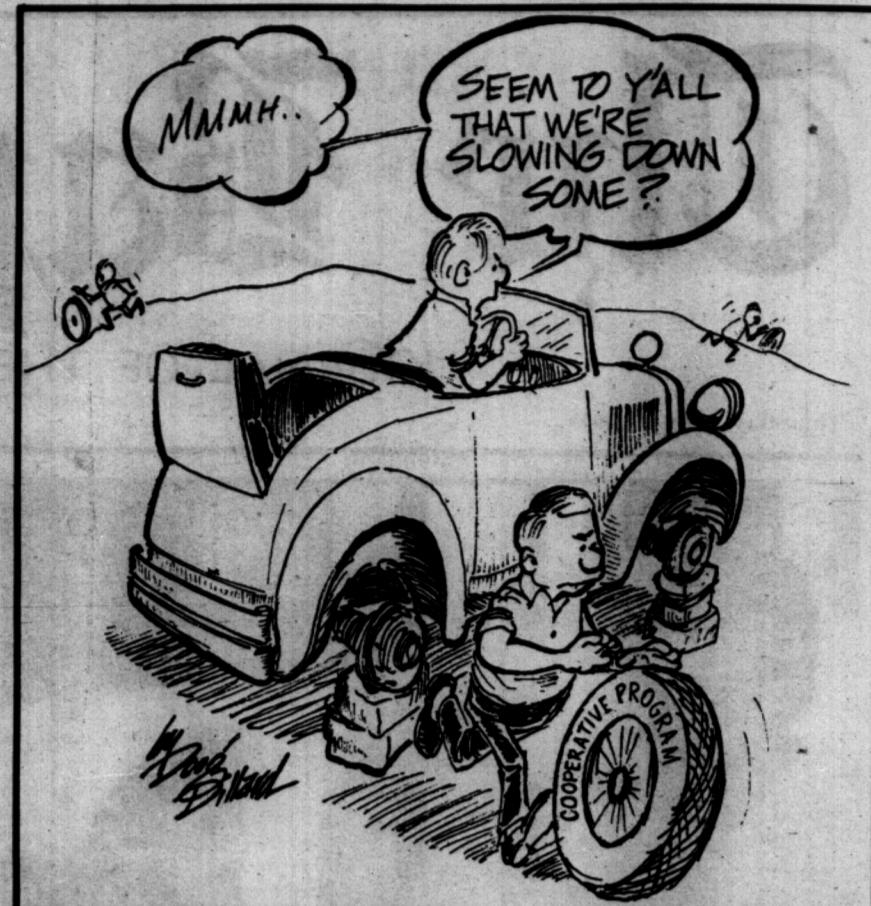
Occasionally, you see some prized historical document in a church library or just stuffed in the pulpit. There are many items of historical value that need to be preserved. The Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission is doing a fine job microfilming important records and preserving reminders of our past. R. A. McLemore's *Highlights of Mississippi Baptist History* has been revised by Jack W. Gunn and this book is available. Gunn also serves as executive secretary for the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission. Alice Cox serves as librarian, and Jean Street continues to index the *Baptist Record*.

The Commission also maintains the

Boyd Historical Shelter on Highway 61 near Natchez, and the Whitfield Cemetery north of Jackson. We owe a debt of gratitude to these faithful workers for their effort to preserve our historical roots. The Natchez marker commemorates the organization of the first Baptist church in Mississippi 200 years ago. This was 154 years after Roger Williams established the first Baptist church in America in Providence, Rhode Island.

Thomas Carlyle is quoted as saying, "The history of the world is but the biography of great men." In the 354 years we've had some great ones and for this we are grateful!

In those 200 years, Mississippi Baptists have had a dominant role in the religious, social, economic, and political life of our state. Many generous individuals sacrificed to keep the Christian cause afloat. How appreciative we should be today for those who sacrifice to preserve it.



## Facts on the Cooperative Program

For the first seven months of the church year, Mississippi showed a 10.4 percent increase in Cooperative Program gifts over the previous year. This is the largest increase of any of the old-line Southern states. We went from 4,029,073 to 4,448,919 in dollars. Designated gifts declined 4.3 percent from \$5,134,953 to \$4,914,387.

Nationwide, 16 conventions showed a decrease in Cooperative Program gifts and 24 showed a decrease in designated gifts.

In the Convention, 24 states showed an increase in CP giving during the past seven months and 17 showed increased designated giving.

During the seven months, SBC receipts increased by slightly less than 1 percent and designated gifts

decreased by 2 percent.

Since 1970, the Cooperative Program percentage of total gifts has steadily declined and in 1990 stands at 7.9 percent. This means churches are giving less than 8 cents of each dollar received. The average in the 1970s was 8.9 percent, in the '80s it dropped to 8.5 percent, and the last five years reflect a decline to 8.2 percent. In the past year, church offerings increased by 6 percent, while gifts to the CP increased by less than 3 percent.

All funds were disbursed to the Foreign and Home Mission boards, the Annuity Board, the six seminaries, and the various commissions. (compiled from SBC Executive Committee Report)

## Brain storming

The stated goal of Mississippi Baptists' Convention Board, "Helping to win Mississippi and the world to Jesus," calls for fervent praying, clear planning, and a holy zeal to take advantage of the times. Just how do we get the gospel to every person in our state?

Commissioners responded to the motion regarding political activities which was referred to all SBC agencies by the Convention in June 1990. They determined no resources of the agency had been "used during the year 1989-90 to engage in any political activity within the Southern Baptist Convention in supporting or opposing candidates for office, directly or indirectly, nor lobbying on any controversial issues scheduled to come before this Convention."

The 1990-91 commission officers were elected for another one-year term. They are Ray Granade, director of library services, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., chairman; Jerry L. Tillman, pastor of Trinity Church, Fresno, Calif., vice-chairman; Marlene Hunt Rikard, professor of history, Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., recording secretary; and May, treasurer.

Could we interview the unsaved per-

son and find out what turns him on or off concerning the gospel? Inject yourself into that pagan arena and ask what would influence the poor, the wealthy, the minority groups, and those in similar occupations.

Are we missing opportunities in day care, pre-school, retirement villages, and after-school situations? What of the jail/prison ministries and halfway houses? What do you recommend for reaching Sunday fishermen and hunters?

Flea markets and craft shows are popular. Can we construct our own arts and crafts show, or utilize one?

How can we bring our resources to focus on the goal and see this as a serious challenge to our best strategists to brainstorm? This Ways and Means Committee could come forth with ideas and suggestions for churches, associations, and the convention.

We are now in the second year of the last decade of this millennium. The ills of our society represent thousands in need and they come asking for bread. Will we give them a stone? The cold stones of orthodoxy, tradition, or programs may not suit the palate of today's generation.

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## Hospital unveils founder's portrait

The Shands family recently commissioned a portrait of their father and grandfather, Dr. H. R. Shands, one of the founders of Mississippi Baptist Hospital in 1911. The portrait will hang in the lobby of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center which is now celebrating its 80th anniversary. From left are Dr. W. Couper Shands (seated), son of the founder; Elizabeth Henninger, granddaughter, with great granddaughter Emily; Susan

Shands; Janet Shands, daughter-in-law (W.C. Shands' wife); Dr. John Harley Walsh, nephew; Cecile Walsh Wardlaw, granddaughter; Aimee Shands Walsh, daughter; William Wardlaw, grandson-in-law; Aimee Wardlaw, great-granddaughter, and Janet Shands, granddaughter, with great-grandson Philip Henninger.

## The Second Front Page

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## Committee OKs Carey loan, hires three BSU directors, funds Zimbabwe project

By Tim Nicholas

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Executive Committee approved renegotiation of William Carey College's 1989 \$4.1 million loan. They also promised funding of up to \$255,000 for the Zimbabwe Partnership missions project and hired three BSU directors.

The renegotiated loan would in effect give Carey approximately \$446,672 in cash to pay old bills and would reduce the current debt service by about \$285,000 per year. This is after paying off the approximate \$3.5 million left in principal on the old loan.

The loan, held by Trustmark along with several participating banks, is currently \$4.1 million at 10 percent for 10 years. The "new" loan is for \$4 million at 8.5 percent for 15 years. The floating prime rate is up for renegotiation yearly. The note itself matures in November of 1994 and is subject to renegotiation then.

Carey President James Edwards told the committee that he could give "reasonable assurance" that such a renegotiation request would not come again "contingent on increased fundraising" for the college.

He indicated that he would immediately begin fundraising personally about four days a week and that the trustees are taking initiative also.

Edwards said that the needed increase in fundraising is \$350,000-\$400,000 per year over the next five years.

In recommending approval of the new loan, MBCB Executive Director-Treasurer Bill Causey told the committee that "this gives them a little more breathing room."

The convention board became involved in 1989 when Carey trustees asked the state convention to assign Carey's portion of Christian higher education funds to the bank for payment of the loan.



Lloyd Lunceford

Carey has a current full time equivalent student enrollment of 1,460.

The Zimbabwe project, originally approved by the Executive Committee in April of 1990, received funding needed to carry it out. Money will come from the Board Operating Fund.

Basically, the project calls for up to 500 Mississippi Baptists to travel to the South African country over the next three years for projects in church planting, evangelism, leadership development, agriculture, and construction.

Estimates of the cost of administering the project include salary, housing and local transportation for a field coordinator, a stateside coordinator, and the agricultural mission which involves experimentation with utilizing sorghum as a food crop.

Administrative Assistant for Business Jennings Orr told the committee that some of the up front costs can likely be recovered at the end of the project such as selling the car, house, and furniture of the field coordinator for approximately the purchase cost.

Approximate cost to participants will be \$2,600 per person for round trip air fare and local expenses.

The Mississippi Baptist Executive Committee approved persons for Baptist Student Union director positions.

Lloyd Lunceford will begin July 1 as BSU director at the University of (See COMMITTEE on page 4)

## 6,000 moderates meet, form Cooperative Fellowship

By Tim Nicholas

More than 6,000 Southern Baptist moderates met last weekend in Atlanta to give their group a name, elect officers, pass a constitution, set a budget, and begin to make plans for missions and Christian education. This was more than double the registration of last year's meeting.

Despite all that, leaders of the group denied they were birthing a new denomination.

John Hewett, pastor of First Church in Asheville, N.C., was elected moderator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

In a press conference after the meeting, Hewett denied that the new group was a denomination and that "personally I am committed to be reconciled to all Baptists." Hewett added that there are "serious, substantive differences of opinion" between the moderate group and those now running the Southern Baptist Convention.

Those differences were outlined in an "Address to the Public from the Interim Steering Committee" of the Fellowship and read by Buddy Shurden, professor at Mercer University. The address noted that "If the old moderate wing of the SBC were represented in making policy and were treated as welcomed representatives of competing ideas in the Baptist mission task, then we would co-exist, as we did for years, along side fundamentalism and continue to argue our ideas before Southern Baptists."

The address said that the differences include ideas on the Bible, education, mission, the pastor, women, and the church.

It said, "That we may give our energies to the advancement of the Kingdom of God rather than in divisive, destructive politics... For these reasons we form the Fellowship. This does not require that we sever ties with the old Southern Baptist Convention. It does give us another mission delivery system, one more like

our understanding of what it means to be Baptist and what it means to do gospel. Therefore, we create a new instrument to further the Kingdom and enlarge the Body of Christ."

Patricia Ayers of Texas was elected moderator-elect, and Bill Owen of Oklahoma was elected recorder.

The Fellowship changed its proposed name from United to Cooperative after a conservative group incorporated under that name earlier in Georgia.

Along with the officers, the group elected a coordinating council of persons nominated by state groups of participants. A group of about 50 participating Mississippi Baptists had nominated Tom Sims, a layman from Richton; Jean Bond, a laywoman from Starkville; and Joe Tuten, a retired pastor from Jackson. The convocation also elected Suzii Paynter, a laywoman from Jackson, as an at-large member.

Two failed attempts were made from the floor to replace Kirby Godsey, a member nominated from Georgia. Godsey is president of Mercer University and has been criticized in recent years for alleged financial mismanagement of the Georgia Baptist school.

The constitution and by-laws, approved with a two-year sunset provision expiring at the end of the general assembly in 1993, allowed for removal of officers by a two-thirds vote, requested balance between clergy and laity, and men and women, as well as racial/ethnic and geographical diversity.

Membership in the Fellowship, according to the constitution, "shall consist of cooperating Baptist churches, institutions and individual Baptists who contribute annually through the Baptist Cooperative Missions Program, Inc."

And the by-laws provided for the coordinating council to select ministry groups for world missions. (See MODERATES on page 4)

## Pre-SBC prayer meeting called

ATLANTA (BP) — The second annual National Prayer Conference will be held at Baptist Tabernacle prior to this year's meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The conference, called and directed by prayer leaders of SBC agencies, will include sessions at 7 p.m., May 30; 9 a.m., May 31; and 7 p.m., June 1.

Participants will be encouraged to join in the SBC evangelistic rally held at the same location that Friday night and in the Soul Winning Encounter planned for June 1.

In addition to Henry Blackaby, HMB, other personalities on the program include Douglas Beggs, Brotherhood Commission; Minette Drumwright, Foreign Mission Board; Avery Willis, Sunday School Board; John Sullivan, Florida Baptist Convention; T.W. Hunt, Sunday School Board; Ron and Patricia Owens, Home Mission Board.

Anyone may attend the conference. A set of materials will be available at the door for \$30. The church is located at 152 Luckie St., within walking distance of the Georgia World Congress Center.



## Mayor proclaims Hospital Week

Mayor Kane Ditto of Jackson recognizes National Hospital Week as May 12-18 in a proclamation to Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. The proclamation pays tribute to the staff and volunteers of MBMC for "their many contributions to quality medical care, educational programs, and 80 years of service to this community." Pictured left receiving the proclamation from Ditto is Kent Strum, MBMC executive director.



Shown above are the elected officers of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in press conference. They are, left to right, Patricia Ayers, Texas, moderator-elect; John Hewett, pastor of First Church, Asheville, N.C.; moderator; and Bill Owen, Oklahoma, recorder. (Photos by Tim Nicholas)



Mississippi Baptists who attend the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship meeting in Atlanta last weekend nominated (left to right) Tom Sims, Richton, Jean Bond, Starkville, and Joe Tuten, Jackson, to a coordinating council of state participants. Not shown is Suzi Paynter, Jackson, at-large member.

## MODERATES

From page 3

literature for Christian education, ethics and public policy, theological education, and equipping the laity.

Disbursements for 1991 were projected to be \$520,502, and three giving plans were proposed for churches. The plans vary in the amount of participation in existing SBC missions and educational endeavors. For instance, the regular plan calls for percentages to go to all six SBC seminaries; the Vision 2000 plan calls for no direct giving to the SBC seminaries, but to Richmond Theological Seminary and Baylor's G.W. Truett Seminary, plus funds for scholarships.

Grady Cothen, retired president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, reported that 211 churches have sent funds through the Baptist Cooperative Missions Program, which will eventually merge with the fellowship. As of April 30, he said that total gifts were \$1,567,161.30. First quarter gifts, Oct. 1-Dec. 31, were approximately \$258,000, he said. April gifts were just over \$344,000.

## COMMITTEE

From page 3

Southern Mississippi. Bill Kirkpatrick will become BSU director at Delta State University on Aug. 1.

Lunceford, 38, returns to the convention board after a three year stint as a missionary to Taiwan for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

From 1979 to 1988, he was associate director of the Department of Student Work for the MBCB. He served as BSU director at Pearl River Junior College (now Community College), 1976-79; as part time BSU director at Delta State, 1975-76; and was music and youth director at First Church, Boyle, 1974-76.

Lunceford, a native of Clarksdale, is a graduate of Delta State and earned the master of divinity degree from

Participants approved a report and recommendations from a missions coordinating council, which included planning to hire a permanent director or directors for the council and a specific locale or office, and a budget of \$507,295 for a series of mission projects. The projects range from a mission to internationals in Boise, Idaho, to funding for three church starters, to a ministry house for Bhutan refugees in Assam, India.

Reports were made of state meetings which discussed mission participation and Christian literature. Leaders were asked to define missions and to "remember, this is the beginning, we can't cover the whole world." Concerning literature, leaders were told participants wanted a broader range of literature including doctrine, history, ethics, and biblical exegesis.

In his press conference, Hewett said of the fellowship, "What you're seeing is one more choice among a plethora of choices."

The 1992 fellowship convocation will take place in the Tarrant County Convention Center in Fort Worth, Tex., April 30-May 2.

### New Orleans Seminary.

Kirkpatrick, 40, goes to Delta State from Pearl River Community College where he has been BSU director since 1979. He has held interim pastorates at Bunker Hill, Derby, Juniper Grove, and Lumberton. He was pastor of Mt. Zion Church, Lufkin, Tex., 1977-79, and was also part time BSU director at Angelina Community College at Lufkin for the same period.

Kirkpatrick is a graduate of Dallas Baptist University and earned the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary.



Kirkpatrick

# Vestal denies forming Fellowship constitutes a new convention

By Linda Lawson

ATLANTA (BP) — Saying he plans to attend the June 4-6 Southern Baptist Convention meeting as an elected messenger, Daniel Vestal steadfastly denied formation of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship constitutes a new convention (slightly more than 5,000 messengers were in attendance).

However, Vestal, moderator of the interim steering committee of The Baptist Fellowship, said during a May 10 news conference the new organization of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship provides him and other Southern Baptist moderates a channel for participating in cooperative missions.

The constitution and bylaws of the new group were expected to be adopted May 11 in the concluding session of the convocation of the fellowship meeting at The Omni in Atlanta.

"I want to serve the Lord," said Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Church in suburban Atlanta. "I can't do it in the SBC. Unless I'm willing to perpetuate their kind of control, I'm shut out. You can shut me out of the SBC, but you can't shut me out of serving Christ."

The constitution and bylaws of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship provide an organization and structure a

way to receive funds, Vestal said, but since they do not provide for election of delegates or messengers from churches, the Fellowship is not a new convention, Vestal said.

"I think we're still a fellowship, loosely knit," said Vestal. "We still love many of the institutions of Southern Baptists. We love what they represent and are doing. We have not abandoned those institutions. We still give a great deal."

He said about 200 churches have voted to channel funds through the Baptist Cooperative Missions Program, Inc., the funding mechanism of the fellowship. About \$1.5 million has been received and disbursed.

Vestal said attitudes among the steering committee of The Baptist Fellowship vary concerning a continuing relationship with the SBC.

"Some have not given up on reconciliation within the SBC. There is sentiment among some to disengage," he said.

Vestal said he envisions the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship building relationships with other Baptist bodies.

"My vision is we could provide for fellowship around ministry with all

kinds of Baptist bodies in this country and around the world."

Walter Shurden, professor of church history at Mercer University in Macon, Ga., and a member of the interim steering committee, said openness, inclusiveness, and an ecumenical spirit represent major differences between the fellowship and the Southern Baptist Convention.

He characterized formation of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as "historic. I don't think this thing is going to fizzle."

Vestal, Shurden, and Patricia Ayers, vice moderator of the interim steering committee from Houston, said the freedom to express opinions, raise questions about the proposed constitution and bylaws and offer amendments represented healthy diversity.

"This is the first time in 12 years some of these people have been to a meeting where they can talk. Granted, it creates chaos on the platform, but vive la chaos!"

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship provides leadership opportunities for women "to exercise their gifts, be affirmed, and lead and instruct the rest of us," Ayers said.

Lawson writes for BSSB.

## Revival dates

**Lebanon Church (Covington):** May 19-24; services Sunday, 11 a.m. with Malcolm Green, Forrest, speaking, and 2 p.m. with Toney Bagley, Jeff Davis County, speaking; services nightly, 7 p.m., with Don Savell, speaking; Carey College Baptist Student Union, music; Don Riley, pastor.

**Beech Grove Church, Pattison (Union):** May 16-19; services 7 p.m. Thurs.-Sat., 11 a.m. Sun.; Matt Buckles, Crossview Church, Brandon, evangelist; P.W. Hynum, Port Gibson, Beech Grove Church, music; Ray Williams, pastor.

**Unity Church, Moselle (Jones):** May 19-24; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Tracy Hipps, Freedom Church, Laurel, evangelist; Edward Jordan, First Church, Sanford, music; David W. Aultman, pastor.

**Area-wide crusade, Tippah County fairgrounds, Ripley:** May 19-24; 7 nightly; Carroll Roberson of Ripley, evangelist; Anthony Mitchell, minister of music, Ashland Church, song director.

**Riverside Church, Long Beach:** May 19-22; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Luther M. Dorr, preaching professor, New Orleans Seminary, evangelist; David P. Snyder, Riverside Church, music; Talmadge Rayborn, pastor.

**Carey Chapel Church, Red Banks:** May 19-23; Conference on Spiritual Renewal; May 19-23, 7 nightly; May 22-23, 10 a.m. (ladies' and men's sessions); May 23, 1 p.m., special pastors' meeting; Jack Taylor, conference speaker; Barbara Taylor, ladies' speaker; Ken Bradley, pastor.

**Glade Church (Jones):** May 19-22; Billy Smith, evangelist; Bernie Parker, musician; services, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 11:45 a.m., lunch; services at 12:20 and 7 p.m.; Charles E. Davis Sr., pastor.

**Pineview Church, Clinton (Hinds-Madison):** May 19-22; Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship, 10:15 a.m.; services 7 p.m. nightly; Gray Allison, president, Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, evangelist; Phil Smith, minister of music, music; Benton Preston, pastor.

**Westwood Church, Meridian:** May 19-23; services, Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Jack Gregory, Johnston City, Tenn., evangelist; Chris Lee, Westwood Church, music; David Mitchell, pastor.

**Crestview Church, Petal:** May 12-17; James Taylor, Heidelberg, evangelist; Brad Griffin, music director, Crestview Church, music; services, each night at 7:30 p.m.; Raymond Parkin, pastor.

**Even the woodpecker owes his success to the fact that he used his head and keeps pecking away until he finishes the job he starts.** — Coleman Cox

## CLASSIFIED

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**THE DAUPHIN ISLAND Summer Ministry of Dauphin Island, Alabama, is in need of Youth or Adult Summer Mission Groups for their program. Dates available are June 22 to June 29, July 13 to July 20, and the month of August. For more information call (205) 861-5124.**

# "In Ethiopia, you call on God," says missionary on furlough

By Anne W. McWilliams

Last week in Ethiopia, rebel troops battling the government were within 25 miles of the capital, Addis Ababa (story below). Only three Southern Baptist missionary couples remained, visas in hand, ready for departure if necessary. Sam and Ginny Cannata of Texas and Mississippi, who transferred in February from Zanzibar, were among ones still there. Betty Barham of Mississippi had elected to transfer to Zimbabwe. Paul and Hannah Gay, Mississippians, have been on furlough since last August, in Jackson.

In 1974, Ethiopia's emperor was overthrown and a Communist government went into power. But during the severe famine in the '80s, Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers were allowed to go into Ethiopia's highlands to help provide food and health care. Afterward, they continued to minister to human needs through rural development projects — clean water, veterinary clinics, breed improvements, agricultural extension, tree nurseries, and nutritional education.

Eight feeding stations established during the famine were staffed by young Ethiopian Christians who as time permitted conducted Bible studies, witnessed, and discipled new Christians. And they still do. Missionaries and volunteers help to equip the Ethiopian Christians for their work in evangelization. "Every station," said Paul Gay, "where a team has been able to work for more than six months has a local Baptist church."

When the Gays left for furlough, Paul was coordinator for all the development projects conducted by



Paul Gay, missionary to Ethiopia, talks with a Baptist Woman following the Monday afternoon session in which he and his wife, Hannah, spoke on "Relying on the Holy Spirit in Ethiopia."

the Mission, and liaison between the National Committee of Baptist churches and the Mission. Also he had served in other ways, such as mission treasurer and in literature ministry.

Hannah, a pediatrician, had planned to teach in Ethiopia's medical school, but it was closed to teaching due to the crush of wounded soldiers who were to be treated ahead of civilians. (A Baptist clinic is under construction at Minji.) Sam Cannata, medical doctor, transferred from Zanzibar in order to help develop and

direct a community health education program. Possibly Hannah may assist in this, she said. "She tried holding a clinic on our front porch," Paul added, "but it didn't work out so well." Also she was busy being mother to three small children. Another son was born this year.

Though born in Georgia, Paul moved to Mississippi in second grade, lived in Tupelo, and went to high school in Quitman. Hannah was born in Jackson to Ruth and Leo Berry. She met Paul at Ole Miss, and they married in 1975. While she earned her M.D., completed a residency in pediatrics, and worked on the faculty of the medical center in Jackson, he worked as a corporate treasurer and earned a master's degree in hospital administration from MC. They became missionaries in 1987.

Of 50 million Ethiopians, the Orthodox Church (state religion for centuries, before 1974) claims 25 million members, and Islam about 20 million, according to the Gays. Per capita income is one percent of Mississippi's.

At first, the Communists tried to outlaw all religion, but failed. Both the Orthodox and the Communists persecute evangelical Christians. "But the Christians possess boldness," said Paul. He told the story of Negussie, who grew up with missionaries after his mother died. When police found three Bibles hidden in his closet, they beat him and told him to stop witnessing. He told them that as a follower of Christ he had no choice but to witness. So he spent seven years in prison. However, in those years he witnessed to 400 in prison. "He praises God for the opportunity."

Thursday, May 16, 1991

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Hannah Gay holds two-month-old Stephen. Seated beside her are Ruth, 2, and Andrew, 4. Daniel, 7, was at school.

At Christmas, the Gays got a letter from a fellow missionary, Jerry Bedsole: "Kifle from Rabel was arrested and beaten by the TPLF along with 35 other believers recently. Had to be hand fed. His wife and small child also arrested and in prison. Several other younger believers also beaten and I asked if they were leaving the church — he said NO! All were praising the Lord. The group had a conference and worship time in prison with tape music. Rebels couldn't understand. It was a victorious time for them."

Ten men from the north of the country have been relying on God for protection, as they walk through battle zones. These young pastors have

walked the 100 miles into Addis Ababa again and again, to the Bible School held there. They would pick up four textbooks to take home in January to study and later in the year, in June, make the trip again to pick up four more books. When Paul told this, he said, "They would have to cross very dangerous territory, through enemy lines where both sides indiscriminately shoot civilians as suspected spies."

"Hannah and I have learned a lot about relying on the Holy Spirit, taught to us by the example of the Ethiopian Christians. Here you can call the repair man, your banker, lawyer, or doctor. In Ethiopia, the phone is probably out, so you call on God."

## War worsens in Ethiopia

By Craig Bird

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP) — The TV news images of war haven't hit the streets of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital — yet.

No running gun battles between fatigue-clad soldiers are seen.

Burned-out cars don't stud the streets. But the noose of civil war is tightening around the city, and more Southern Baptist missionaries have left the country.

Three missionary couples remain: Jerry and Rosie Bedsole of Foley, Ala.; Rob and Patricia Ackerman of Wheaton, Ill., and Albuquerque, N.M.; and Sam and Ginny Cannata of Houston, and Hollandale, Miss. Exit visas in hand, they weigh the factors of going or staying. The Cannatas transferred in February from Zanzibar to Ethiopia. Nurse Betty Barham of Sontag, Miss., has accepted a transfer to a Baptist hospital in Zimbabwe and is in the United States awaiting a work permit from that country. Paul and Hannah Gay of Jackson are on furlough in Mississippi.

Rebel forces are closing in on the capital and its embattled government. Dire rumors are plentiful, gasoline scarce. But instead of air raid sirens, quiet desperation permeates the atmosphere. Instead of bursts of machine gun fire, the steady pounding of wartime inflation beats on. Live chickens sell for \$12 each; ground beef is pushing \$3 a pound. Eggs are unavailable.

Rebel troops are within 25 miles of the capital. Missionaries commuting to the last functioning Baptist-operated feeding stations and to a

medical clinic under construction can hear gunfire. Rebel forces also threaten to cut the city's electricity if government troops don't stop shelling them.

At least nine different, mostly ethnic-based armies battle the government. A Lebanon-type chaos could result if Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam refuses to resign before the various armies enter the city.

"We're really grateful the decision to leave is up to us and what we feel God wants us to do — that way we can't blame anyone else," Mrs. John Lawrence, missionary from Louisiana, said. "But we know one thing: if we accept another assignment we want it to be temporary."

Surprisingly, most Southern Baptist work continues, according to Mrs. Lawrence, although it is "limping along rather than running." The main exception came in April when the university where Lawrence taught veterinary science closed so all students could be sent to military training camps.

In Addis Ababa, Baptist literature publication and veterinary clinics still operate. Feeding programs for war refugees still function in northern Shoa province and Eahware, staffed by Ethiopians who live at the stations on the fringe of the war's front lines. Work also continues on construction of a Baptist medical clinic at Minji, about 100 miles from the capital.

Missionaries drive to the outlying work almost daily.

Bird writes for FMB.

## Baptists send \$345,000 to Bangladesh

By Marty Croll

DHAKA, Bangladesh (BP) — Southern Baptists will spend \$345,000 to buy food for Bangladeshis and help them rebuild their villages after the April 30 cyclone that killed at least 125,000 people.

In their first relief request,

Southern Baptist missionaries in Bangladesh outlined plans for a \$120,000 food-for-work program. They also sought \$225,000 for rebuilding about 400 houses not related to the food-for-work program.

To help meet needs not related to hunger in Bangladesh, the Foreign Mission Board has set up a Bangladesh relief fund. People who want to contribute should address their gifts to Bangladesh Relief, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230.

Clyde Meador, a mission administrator based in Bangkok,

Thailand, has spoken by telephone to missionary James Young of Thomastown, Miss., in Bangladesh. Communications to and from Bangladesh and anywhere except Bangkok were cut off during the cyclone when a satellite transmission station was damaged.

Bangladesh owns only a tiny fleet of 12 helicopters. Those helicopters, plus a handful of others borrowed from India and Pakistan, are being used to drop rice and drinking water in the remote areas.

Although government officials put the death count by May 7 at 125,730 people, missionary Jim McKinley of Albany, Ky., reported some people claim as many as 400,000 Bangladeshis might have died. Officials have no way to estimate how

many people simply washed out to sea as winds churned up the Bay of Bengal, causing sea water to rise by 20 feet and sweep over the land.

Many offshore islands were under 12 feet of water.

Bangladesh, a low-lying country about the size of Wisconsin, is one of the poorest nations in the world. Its 115 million people earn an average of \$170 a year per capita. It is frequently buffeted by cyclones, droughts, and floods.

The 16 Southern Baptist missionaries in Bangladesh were unharmed. Only one missionary couple, R. T. and Fran Buckley of Picayune, Miss., live in the area of devastation, an arc of several districts about 125 miles from Dhaka, the capital city.

Croll writes for FMB.

## Medical teams cross into Iraq

By Terry McMahon

to the mountains separating Iraq and Turkey.

With the promise of safety, the Kurdish refugees are beginning to return to their homeland to rebuild lives shattered by war and civil strife.

The C-130 cargo plane loaded with the team's medical supplies sat for two days on a runway in Larnaca, Cyprus, while frantic efforts were under way in Turkey to secure permission to land in Diyarbakir rather than in Van.

Around noon May 5, the necessary permits were granted and the plane

(provided by LeSEA Global Feed the Hungry ministry in South Bend, Ind.) was cleared to fly from Larnaca to Diyarbakir.

Under jurisdiction of the Red Crescent (the Middle East equivalent of the Red Cross), the supplies and volunteers were to travel May 6 by truck to the border town of Salopi and then cross with a military escort into Iraqi territory for the final 15 miles to Zakho.

Terry McMahon is covering Southern Baptist relief efforts in Iraq and Iran.

# Marks churches rise to flood water's challenge



The flooding in Quitman County took the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit to the street in front of First Church, Marks on May 5. The unit is operated by the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board utilizing trained volunteers. By the time the unit was scheduled to close down on May 14, the volunteer crew had served 12,502 hot meals. In the picture at center, crewman Buck Fortner of Lambert splices up some chili while Marks Church volunteers stir. Bottom right, Parchman prisoners take a hot meal from the Red Cross truck which delivered most of the meals for the Baptist unit. Red Cross ordinarily provides the food which the Baptists cook. At top and bottom, left, members of West Marks Church, Marks, fill sandbags provided by the county. Pastor Mike Smithey said that his church had canceled Sunday School and worship services, May 5, to help flood victims build levees. Said Smithey, "We thought it was a better exercise of our religion than meeting in the sanctuary." The church gave the bags to anyone who asked. "It lets you know what kind of neighbors you have," he said. Below is a Quitman County home which was not saved by building a levee. Hundreds were saved by the work of volunteer laborers, some were not. At top, right, are some of the volunteers on the unit: Buck Fortner, Lambert; Gerald Welch, Greenwood; Ronnie Ferrell, Belzoni; Malcolm Ashcraft, Lyon; Joe Russell, Clarksdale; Joe Weeks, Lyon; M.C. Johnson, director of missions, North Delta Association; Warren Brattlof, Clarksdale; and Garvin Herrington, Philadelphia. (Photos by Tim Nicholas, except top right, provided by North Delta Association.)



# HOUSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 16, 1991

HOUSETOPS is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



## Qualifications of a Witness

by James Fancher, Consultant  
Evangelism Dept., MBCB

I have never been satisfied with my own witnessing, either the quality or the quantity of it. I am still learning. I'm not like the lady at the golf course who was asked if she wanted to learn to play golf. She replied, "My friend here wants to learn, I learned yesterday." I sometime feel with Paul, "Who is sufficient for these things?" 2 Cor. 2:16.

I believe there are three essential elements in our witnessing that must be present:

- *The witness must know personally what he is telling.* Our assurance that God saved us through faith in Jesus, that our hope is in Him alone, and that we are sure of our relationship based on God's mercy and not our own goodness or worthiness is essential.
- *The witness must be willing to tell what he knows.* Here is where so many of us fail. We are afraid of offending or of being rejected or of not being able to make it clear. We can learn to give our testimony clearly, enthusiastically, and humbly.
- *The witness must have the kind of life that makes what he says believable.* In Mark the story is told about a man possessed of demon powers. He was delivered when he came to Christ. Jesus told him to go home to his friends and tell them how great things Jesus had done for him. He had a changed life to back up his testimony. He was to show and tell. These must go together.

My favorite witnessing tool is the marked New Testament. After leading an eleven year old girl to claim Jesus as her Saviour I asked her to pretend I was lost and show me how to be saved. With very little help from me she did fine going through the marked verses. I urged her to show this to her family. The following Sunday she made her profession of faith along with her mother and older sister to whom she witnessed.

I want to be a better witness. I am prompted to look for opportunities to share the good news about Jesus because I do know what He has done and is doing for me. **HT**

*This series of articles deals with how to become a Christian or how to share your faith. Articles by others will follow in future issues of HouseTops.*

## Don't Miss Out on Central Hills

Registration for Central Hills Summer Camp 1991 Sessions is now open. Royal Ambassador Boys and High School Baptist Young Men (grades 4-12) may register for the Royal Ambassador Resident Camp sessions (Monday - Friday) [Maximum of 170 per session]. Boys (grades 1-3) and their dads may register for the Lad-Dad Weekend Camp sessions (Friday - Saturday) [Maximum of 100 per session]. Early registration will assure you of your choice of camp sessions. Active participation in an R. A. or H. S. B. Y. M. unit is not required for a fellow to register for a camp session.

### ROYAL AMBASSADOR RESIDENT CAMP SESSIONS

June 17-21 July 15-19  
June 24-28 July 22-26  
July 8-12 July 29-August 2

### LAD-DAD WEEKEND CAMP SESSIONS

June 14-15 June 28-29 July 12-13

New Registration forms have been printed for the 1991 camp sessions. Each camper will complete an individual form. Included in the form is all the information parents need from Central Hills. Parents will provide all the information Central Hills needs for the camper. The form requests registration information, health information and personal information. (This procedure will provide full information for our staff on each camper. It will simplify the bookkeeping procedures and speed

the registration process each Monday morning.) Each parent/camper will receive a confirmation receipt from Central Hills.

Campers are grouped in a "Chapter" (living unit) within a two (2) year age span. Each camper may list his choice of "bunk mate" on the registration form.

The Camp Fee of \$86.00 (payable with registration form) includes all the necessary fees for the Royal Ambassador Resident Camp session. It provides for lodging, "first call" insurance, snacks, crafts (1 or 2 projects). A camper may bring additional money for more craft projects. More souvenirs and additional snacks may be purchased on Friday after lunch.

*continued on back page of HOUSETOPS*

# LET'S ALL GO TO CHURCH CONFERENCE

*"Reaching People through Authentic Worship"*

May 20 at First Baptist Church, Starkville  
May 21 at First Baptist Church, Greenwood  
May 23 at First Baptist Church, Brookhaven

**AUDIENCE:** Church and associational worship leaders (Pastors, music directors, directors of missions, instrumentalists, worship committee members, and other interested persons)

**LEADERS:** James White, consultant, Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board; Fred Kelly, consultant, Church Music Department, Baptist Sunday School Board

9:00 a.m.—3:15 p.m.

*The Priority of Worship  
Worship and Church Growth  
Let's All Go to Church. . .What. . .Why? . .How?  
Planning for Dynamic Worship Services  
Planning and Conducting the Worship Emphasis*

For further information contact Julius Thompson at 968-3800, ext 3908, or Graham Smith at 968-3800, ext 3876.



## Experience the Word...Improved Sunday School Literature for Adults

October, 1991, will be a significant time of improvement for Adult Sunday School literature. Some of the improvements that you will see as a worker with adults will be:

- There will be more Bible exposition available to help teachers design each lesson to suit their class' needs.
- All three adult curriculum series will have weekly lesson leaflets that are designed to have an evangelistic appeal. They are written in easy-to-understand language with special appeal to unsaved and unchurched adults.
- Each Bible study lesson will have additional helps to incorporate Bible truths into the daily lives of adults.
- Each curriculum series will have two teaching plans from which to choose. Plan one will be using basic methods calling for few resources, and is student-centered with strong teacher direction. Plan two will use a broad range of methods calling for additional resources, and is student-centered with stronger group involvement. All adult curriculum will be more visually appealing to adults.

Two significant format changes in the adult teacher's book will be:

- The adult teacher's book will be 8"x 11" in size. The large size will provide for the additional Bible exposition and the additional teaching plans.
- All helps for the department director will now be found in the teacher's book. Adult Leadership will no longer be available. Department periods and weekly workers' meeting helps will be found in the teacher's book. **HT**

## Summertime means going to camp . . .

...especially for Girls in Action and Acteens! Woman's Missionary Union offers eight full weeks and one mini-camp for GAs at Camp Garaywa, Clinton, and one week for GAs and one week for Acteens at Central Hills Retreat, Kosciusko. Cost for a full week at Garaywa is \$65 and \$35 for the mini-camp; cost for a week at Central Hills is \$86. Girls must have completed third grade to attend camp at Garaywa; GAs must have completed fifth or sixth grade to attend Central Hills. The Acteens camp is for girls in grades seven through twelve.

To be sure that GAs and Acteens have an opportunity for summer camp, they should register soon. For registration forms and information, call the WMU office. **HT**

## Agricultural Missions

The leadership of the Mississippi Baptist Agri-Missions Fellowship is heavily burdened with the problem of hunger in many developing countries in the world. Southern Baptist foreign missionaries face these problems each day in their ministry.

To allow Baptists in the local church to contribute directly to help their foreign missionaries meet some of the most critical needs, the MANNA project list was developed. Individual missionaries in the various countries submit their requests to the Foreign Mission Board. There the MANNA (Ministering-Aid-To-Needy-Nations-Abroad) list is prepared and updated quarterly. Projects are divided to show cost per unit, per time period, and the current balance needed for underwriting. Sponsors may pledge to underwrite single units or whatever portion of a project they wish. When approved, funding for each project goes directly to the missionaries and is administered by them with no overhead costs. Current projects vary from providing individual packages of food for hungry people in Eastern Europe to constructing tubewells for safe drinking water for villages in Bangladesh. Cost per unit vary from \$1.25 to several thousand dollars. The total cost of a large project may be over \$100,000.

When a project is assigned to a sponsor, the sponsor is furnished the name and address of the missionary in order that they may communicate with each other.

All officers and area coordinators of the Agri-Missions Fellowship have a current copy of the MANNA list which they will be happy to share with any potential sponsor. Sponsors may be RA or GA groups, Sunday School classes, local Brotherhoods or WMU groups, or individual Baptists in the local church. Any interested potential sponsor is urged to contact an officer or area coordinator of the Fellowship or the Brotherhood Department in Jackson. **HT**

*I want  
to be  
in that  
number...*



## Want a Growing Sunday School?

### Start Discipleship Training

A comparison of churches with Discipleship Training and those without Discipleship Training reveals that churches with discipleship programs excel in three major areas: Sunday School enrollment, baptisms, and Cooperative Program giving. This holds true in every size category. Discipleship Training indeed makes a difference!

Resident Members	Churches w/o DT	Churches with DT
<i>Percent of Resident Members Enrolled in Sunday School</i>		
Under 100	75.6	92.0
100-199	60.6	73.2
200-299	57.2	69.9
300-399	56.0	72.1
500-749	61.0	77.6
750-999	68.1	82.3
1000-1999	70.8	88.3
2000-up	66.1	89.5
Average	62.8	79.3



Train to DiscipleALL



## Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School provides an opportunity to share information about the Cooperative Program with future church and denominational leaders. During the next few months, over 3 million pupils will be enrolled in more than 30,000 Southern Baptist church and mission schools.

During a ten-day school, eight missionary character stories produced by the combined efforts of the Home and Foreign Mission Boards and the Stewardship Commission will be shared. The purposes of these stories are: mission awareness—to give boys and girls an insight into the variety of Southern Baptist mission work; mission involvement—to challenge our youth with opportunities for church-related vocations to which God may be calling them; mission education—to teach a generation of Southern Baptists the values of the Cooperative Program in supporting a worldwide program of missions; and mission support—to encourage boys and girls to pray for our missionaries and to financially support their work through the Cooperative Program.

Each day, VBS participants have the privilege of giving a mission offering. In 1990, \$1,653,839 was given to missions through the VBS. Over the past several years the percentage of the mission offering shared through the Cooperative Program has been increasing.

Urge your church to give its mission offering in 1991 through the Cooperative Program. **HT**

(copied from *Spice*, newsletter of the Stewardship Commission.)

## Acteens Leaders Have Opportunity to "Get-Away"

Acteens leaders, do you long for a chance to "get-away"? We've got just the thing for you! June 7-8, at Camp Garaywa, Clinton, there will be an Acteens Leaders Weekender. The program is planned with Acteens leaders in mind—Bible study, prayer times, a Studiact workshop, and lots of fun and fellowship with other leaders from across the state.

Theme for the Weekender is FOCUSED. Special guests include Marti Solomon, National Acteens Consultant from Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, and Helen Price, Mental Health Consultant from McComb.

Cost for the Weekender is \$21 per person. Participants need to bring sheets, towels, washcloth, pillowcase, Bible, new Studiact materials, comfortable clothes and shoes, and bathing suit (the pool will be available for those who want to swim.)

Prospective leaders and other women interested in youth are also invited to attend the Weekender.

To register, fill out the form below and mail with check to: WMU, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

### ACTEENS LEADER WEEKENDER

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (work) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_

I am an Acteens Leader  Director  Interested in youth

**Registration deadline: June 4 (no refund after this date)**

## Three Sunday School Revivals

• • • were conducted in Mississippi and by Mississippians in Wyoming during the month of April.

April 20-28 Lawrence Baptist Association had four churches to participate in a Week-long Sunday School Revival. Twenty outside guest leadership team members traveled to Monticello to lead this event. The statistical information was not available at the time of this writing. However, comments from one Outside Guest Leadership team member seems to be typical of this event: "I had from 20 to 25 adults in every session; beginning on Saturday evening. I also had 21 who did not miss a single session", Dean Timbes.

On April 19, 31 people departed Mississippi for Casper, Wyoming. The purpose was to work with seven churches in the Old Faithful Baptist Association. The Sunday School enrollment for the eight churches was 1,774 at the beginning of the eight day event, with an average attendance of 111 per church. During the week 148 people participated in a People Search. A total of prospects were discovered and 47 were enrolled in Sunday School. There was an average attendance of 122 at each of the five study sessions. During the week 15 new Sunday School units were created and 39 new workers enlisted.

On April 26-28 a Weekend Sunday School Revival was conducted in the Monroe Baptist Association. Six churches and 24 Outside Guest Leadership team members participated in the event. The total Sunday School enrollment for these six churches was 1,316. During the People Search 172 people discovered 714 prospects. The average attendance for each of the five teaching sessions was 269. Some of the comments by pastors of these churches, following the event, "Excellent!"; "The People responded;" "New Enthusiasm for Sunday School." **HT**

## Mississippi Baptist Bible Drills

# BIBLE/PREACHING/ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE

## Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

### July 25-27, 1991

A conference for ministers, ministers' wives, church/associational secretaries, church weekday education workers, deacons, church missions development workers, church media library workers, stewardship leaders, all children of these from infants to youths

#### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Bible leader—Billy Warren, New Orleans Theological Seminary
- Worship leader—Dennis Johnsey, pastor, Florida Blvd. Baptist Church, Baton Rouge
- Inspirational speaker—Martin Thielen, consultant, Baptist Sunday School Board
- Music—Gary Anglin and Betty Turner, First Baptist Church, Pascagoula

#### REGISTRATION:

Make room reservations with Frank Simmons at Gulfshore.

Advise Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries of the conference you plan to attend so that adequate preparation can be made.

For further information: Contact Julius Thompson, 968-3800 extension 3908

#### Staff Leadership with...

- Billy Warren - "Seeing . . . through God's Eyes"
- Martin Thielen - "Preaching and Worship"
- Dennis Johnsey - "The Pastor as Leader"

#### Ministers' Wives with . . .

- Wilda Fancher - "The Nitty Gritty . . ."

#### Secretaries with . . .

- Linda Jenkins - "The Church Secretary --A Note-worthy Ministry"

#### Deacons with . . .

- Matt Buckles and David Michel - "The Deacon and Pastoral Ministry . . . Stewardship . . . Caring"

#### Stewardship Leaders with

- David Michel - "The ABC's of Church Budgeting and Promotion"

#### Church Missions Development with . . .

- Ray Grissett, Neron Smith, Richard Brogan, and Jim Booth

#### Church Media Library Workers with . . .

- Anne Long - "Administering the Church Media Library"

- Jack Lewis - "Developing Church Media Skills"

#### Church Weekday Education Workers . . .

- coordinated by David Morrow

#### Youth with . . .

- Lewis Harrell - "Christian Foundations"

#### Central Hills (cont. from p. 1)

The Camp Fee of \$22.50 (Payable with registration form) for Lad/Dad weekend Camp sessions provides for lodging and meals and "first call" insurance. Each Dad and Lad will complete an individual registration form. Dads will need to be prepared with money for the Snack/Souvenir Shop.

The early weeks of the summer provide the advantage of good climate. Churches can work together by car/van/bus pooling to provide transportation for the campers. Associations can help by promoting attendance for a given week where transportation can be planned for several churches.

Several Volunteer Counselors are needed for each Resident Camp session. A volunteer can enlist a group of boys from his church or community and help with transportation for that group. (Preferably the volunteer would work with a group of boys other than his own.)

Registration forms are available from:

- Central Hills Baptist Retreat • P. O. Box 723 • Kosciusko, MS 39090-0723 • 601/289-9730
- Your Church Office
- Your Association Office
- Brotherhood Department • Mississippi Baptist Convention Board • P. O. Box 530; Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • 601/968-3800 **HT**

## Bivocational Ministers/Ministers' Wives Meetings

#### MAY 24 FOR AREA 1

Highland Baptist Church, Senatobia  
6:30 - 8:50 p.m. Complimentary meal served by the church at 6:30.  
Conference time - 7:15 - 8:50

#### JUNE 1 FOR AREA 4

Traceway Restaurant, Mathiston  
9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Complimentary breakfast at 9:00 a.m.  
Conference time - 9:30 - 11:00

#### JUNE 14 FOR AREA 6

Scott Association Center, Forest  
6:30 - 8:45 p.m. Complimentary meal served at 6:30  
Conference time - 7:15 - 8:45

#### JUNE 21 FOR AREA 8 IN SUMRALL

6:30 - 7:15	Complimentary meal at Lau-Tori Restaurant
7:15 - 7:30	Transition to First Baptist Church, Sumrall
7:30 - 9:00	Conference time

For more information, contact Matt Buckles in Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Dept., MBCB, 968-3800, extension 3907.



## Building Grant Helps Meet Church's Need

Avery Jones (right), state convention board member from Clay County Baptist Association, is shown presenting a building grant check to Ben McDaniel (center), pastor of Faith Baptist Church, West Point, as J. C. Mitchell (left), director of missions, looks on. The check in the amount of \$1500 is provided through the Pastoral and Church Building Aid Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board from funds received through the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering. Faith Church was organized May 1, 1988. After first using a mobile chapel loaned from the State Convention Board the church entered its new building on March 24, 1991.

Photo by Troy Land



# Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Thursday, May 16, 1991

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

## "The parent of all virtues"

By Gary Bagley

One stormy autumn night in 1860 a side-wheel steamboat, *The Lady Elgin*, collided with a lumber schooner, broke up, and sank in Lake Michigan a mile offshore from the village of Winnetka, Ill. Of the 393 aboard, 279 drowned. Among the heroes of that tragedy was Edward Spencer, a student at Northwestern University.

A strong swimmer, he plunged into the lake and swam out to people still afloat, towing them to safety one after another. Having made 17 round-trips, Spencer became delirious from the strain. Spencer asked again and again, "Did I do my best?" He was rendered an invalid and confined to a wheelchair throughout life.

Cain has time for this work because he is on disability. Three years ago, he was scheduled for bypass surgery at St. Dominic's Hospital, Jackson, when doctors there told him a bypass would be no good; he needed a transplant.

"I'll share my testimony anywhere," he said last week, "about the value of this student program, and about what the Lord has done for me."

As he prepared for the transplant, he got word from all over the state that people were praying for him. A surprise was in store. The heart transplant specialist at the Methodist hospital in Memphis, asked, "You believe in miracles?" and added,

"Your heart doesn't look like the same heart you had in Jackson. I know no explanation other than the power of prayer."

Instead of a transplant, he got five bypasses. However, doctors said he might need the transplant by the end of five years.

"Local people in Durant, and family and friends helped to raise money," he said. "Our every need has been met."

Now, because he has received, he continues giving, with input into lives of young people from other lands.

newspaper reported, was the fact that not one of the 17 returned to thank him.

The failure to express thanks was one of the burdens on the heart of Christ when on earth. When the ten lepers were cleansed, only one returned to thank him. Disappointed, Jesus asked, "Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they?" (Luke 17:27 REB).

Why can't we learn to speak those simple, gladdening words — "thank you?" Being grateful not only delivers an individual from the fate of a marble-hearted fiend, it also adds much to his inner peace and to the happiness of the world. Many dreary moments have been brightened by a courteous, thoughtful "thank you." Renewal comes to downcast spirits through this energizing phrase of appreciation.

Cicero was right: "A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue; it is the parent of all other virtues."

Bagley is pastor, First Church, Meridian.

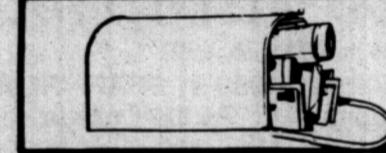


Murray Cain and Anatol Bergendahl.

homes of our former students, in Spain."

"The world is growing smaller," he said. "We in the United States are getting behind. We only send one student over there for every 100 who come here to study. This program promotes understanding between countries, and it helps students who come here learn to speak better English."

Anatol, the Berliner, said he speaks three languages, German, French, and English. He is visiting the Cains.



## Fifteenth Avenue, Meridian, will celebrate 100 years

Fifteenth Avenue Church of Meridian will be celebrating its 100th anniversary on May 25-26. The theme for the centennial is "Committed to the Future — Celebrating the Past."

Fifteenth Avenue Church was organized in January 1891 by William Joshua David and other members of First Church, Meridian, who felt the need for a Baptist church on the east end of town. David, the first pastor of Fifteenth Avenue, was former missionary to Nigeria from 1874-89. While there, he founded the First Baptist Church of Lagos, Nigeria.

The centennial celebration will involve the following activities: Saturday, May 25, 7 p.m., fellowship with former staff; Sunday, May 26, 9:30 a.m., Sunday School with guest speakers (former staff); 10:45 a.m., special worship service, guest speaker, Bob Simmons, former pastor; 12:30 p.m., dinner on the grounds.

Other highlights of the event will be "memorabilia" displays spotlighting some of the 19 former pastors, weddings held in the church, etc.

Former members and friends are invited. To make a reservation write 1318 15th Avenue, Meridian, MS 39301, or call 485-4114, the church office.

James Lewis is the present pastor.

Not only are we living longer; but it seems we're getting stronger. Each year, we lift with greater ease, ten dollars worth of groceries. — The Hailey (Idaho) Times

### Celebrate chaplains!

Editor:

The following persons serve as endorsed Southern Baptist Chaplains in Mississippi. Celebrate with them and the Southern Baptist Convention 50 years of serving Christ by providing His presence at military installations, hospitals, police stations, fire departments, nursing homes, and industrial sites.

They are: Leon Adams, Meridian; Tanya Anderson, Columbus; Ray Bell, Columbia; Drew Blanton, Laurel; John Bond, Columbus; Alan Bragdon, Keesler AFB;

Edward Campbell, Magnolia; Bobby Cook, Coffeeville; Jackie Cooke, Ruleville; Stanley Cruse, Gulfport; John Dent, Newton; Thomas Dickson, French Camp; Edward Dowdy, Gulfport; R. J. Follis, Meridian;

Jimmie Garrard, Petal; Grover Glenn, Poplarville; Graham Hales, Hattiesburg; Troy Harrison, Tiplersville; Lavon Hatten, Winona; Elaine Henderson, Keesler AFB; John Hilburn, Soso; Ed Holmes, Biloxi;

Michael Hunt, Vicksburg; Thomas Hunt, Clinton; Wilbur Irwin, Jackson; Robert Jones, Jackson; Harold Jordan, Vicksburg; Thomas Kilpatrick, Mendenhall; Edgar McDaniel, Ridgeland; Clark McMurray, Pascagoula;

David Millican, McComb; Homer Nail, Whitfield; Don Nerren, Jackson; Glen Newton, Hernando; Danny Owens, Tupelo; Michael Perry, Leakesville; James Phillips,

Greenwood;

Hugh Poole, Meridian; Joseph Ratcliff, Collins; Frank Reuter, Long Beach; Randall Rich, Vicksburg; Danny Rupert, Tupelo; Glen Schilling, Mendenhall; Gordon Shamburgh, Jackson; Jimmy Smith, Kosciusko;

Bryon Spain, Biloxi; George Stevens, Tupelo; Joe Stovall, Jackson; James Street, Clinton; Hoyt Swann, Meridian; Edward Thompson, Nettleton; Leon Timms, Gunnison; D. R. Walton, Columbus;

William Webb, Meridian; Steven West, Forest; Howard Whittington, Meridian; Timothy Williams, Columbus; Paul Williamson, Kosciusko; Melvin Wilson, Jackson; Gregory Winingham, Laurel; and Gerald Worzella, Gautier.

Richard Brogan  
Cooperative Missions Dept.  
MBCB

### Seeking new students at naval academy

Editor and Baptists of Mississippi:

Heritage Church is located in Annapolis, Maryland near the United States Naval Academy. We carry on an active ministry with midshipmen. If you know a young man or woman who will be beginning their tour at the academy this summer, please contact me:

C. Phillip Bush, Pastor  
Heritage Baptist Church  
1740 Forest Drive  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
301-263-6680

### Realize responsibilities

Editor:

I was very pleased to see the article "Congress addresses pro-life issues" in last week's edition of the *Baptist Record*. It is very important that we as Christians begin to realize our responsibilities in our government. We cannot "let our voices be heard" through unless someone informs us as to what is going on. I look forward to more articles such as this, as well as articles instructing our people that it is our Christian duty to become involved citizens of our government.

Sue Anderson  
Tupelo

### Tribute to Dewey Mercer

Editor:

Two years ago I had the privilege of participating in our Partnership Japan mission project. Virgil King III and I worked in the city of Matsue with a wonderful missionary couple by the name of Dewey and Ramona Mercer. I recently learned that Dewey suffered a heart attack on April 17 and has gone home to be with our Lord.

It would be a shame if his passing went unnoticed, even though I know that it did not get by the watchful eye of He who sees every sparrow fall.

Dewey had served for 36 years in a very difficult and seemingly unrewarding situation. He and Ramona were met by a dilapidated building and no membership when they arriv-

ed in the city of Matsue. With their hands they scrubbed and labored to restore the building as they sought to form a congregation. God blessed them and their faith mightily and there is a good, sound church there that would not exist except for their willingness to be used of our Lord.

Dewey was so looking forward to coming home, returning to the states and visiting around. We had already scheduled him to be with us here at First Baptist Church, Lexington. I know the great people of Mississippi will join me in praying for Ramona and their children, Dale and Darlene. Please pray for the people of Matsue as they seek to fill the void left by his passing. God's faithful servant has gone home.

Michael O'Brien, pastor  
First Church, Lexington

### Out of line

Editor:

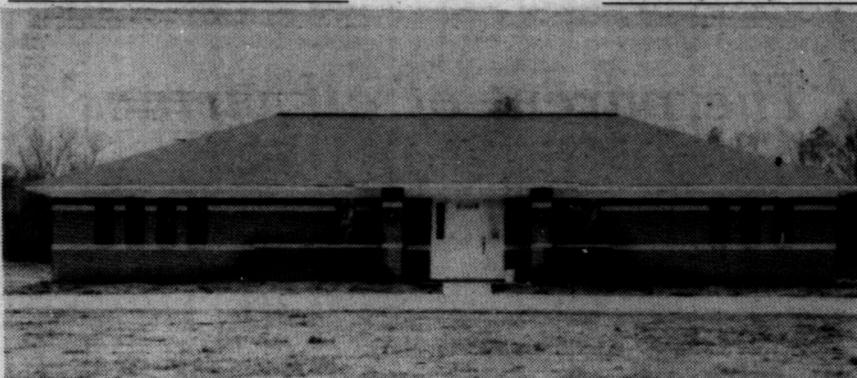
Joe Trull is out of line with Scripture when he promotes female seminary professors.

In a real sense, seminary professors hold a greater and higher position of leadership than a pastor because professors teach pastors in an authoritative role.

Moreover, the Scripture tells us that pastors must be men (1 Tim. 3:1-2).

Also, women are not permitted to assume an authoritative Biblical teaching role over men (1 Tim 2:12).

Bill Kent Jr., pastor  
New Hope Church, Leakesville



## Newton County plans open house

The Newton County Baptist Association has scheduled an open house May 19 for its new building on Highway 15, south of Decatur. The project was launched officially in November 1989, with the purchase of a building site from Jack McMullan. Construction began in late May 1990. Most of the labor, on-site preparation, and construction was donated by volunteers within Newton County Association churches. Architectural services were given by Tom Melton, formerly of Newton. John West served as coordinator of construction. Frank Harmon was building committee chairman; C. H. Melton is director of missions. Activities will begin at 2 p.m. with Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer, MBCB, speaking at an appreciation service, followed by tours of the facility and refreshments.

## Homecomings

**Bellevue Church, Pontotoc:** May 19; morning service, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall at noon; afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m.; no night services; M. L. Swinney, former pastor, guest speaker; Lee Graham, pastor.

**Kreole Avenue Church, Moss Point:** May 19; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. and services, 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner on grounds, 12:30 p.m.; singing, 1:30 p.m.; no night services; Joe Blackwell, Columbia, guest speaker for morning service; Wilbur Hall, Helena, afternoon guest speaker; Faye Bond Ensemble, Moss Point, music; Arthur Middleton, pastor.

**Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian:** May 19; Ray Hill, former pastor, speaker; services, Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; dinner on the grounds following worship service; no afternoon or evening services; Jim Smith, pastor.

**Emmanuel Church (Hinds-Madison), now dissolved:** May 18; 2-7 p.m.; Rice Acres camp, Henderson Road; dinner on the grounds, 4 p.m.; bring food, drink, lawn chairs, memorabilia; contact Edith King Booth for more information, 992-3460.

## Mumbower appointed to task force

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman has appointed a seven-member family ministry task force to identify ways churches can minister to the needs of families in trouble.

"I have a growing burden for the deterioration of the family in America," said Chapman, pastor of First Church of Wichita Falls, Texas. "This task force can help bring greater attention to the need of all Southern Baptists to minister effectively to dysfunctional families and struggling singles."

The purpose of the task force is to explore ways to reverse the trends of dysfunctional families, Chapman said.

Included in the seven-member task force which is expected to hold its first meeting prior to the SBC is Ron Mumbower, director of counseling for First Church, Jackson.

Calvary Church, Jackson, will celebrate the ninetieth anniversary of the church, June 2-9. The church began in 1901 and has had eight pastors. Beginning with 80 members, the congregation grew to over 4,200 members.

In missions and Cooperative Program giving, Calvary was among the leading churches of the state. Over 75 young people have gone forth in full-time Christian vocations. The Glenn Morris, who served in China,

Thailand, and Hong Kong, have been sponsored by the church since 1947. Presently, it sponsors the Charles Rays in Korea. Linda Smith of the Calvary congregation was commissioned recently to serve in Hong Kong.

Former pastors Joe Tuten and Luther Thompson will speak on June 2 and June 9, respectively. James Arrington Goff, organist, will present a concert June 2 at 2 p.m. James W. Street is pastor.

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## LETTERS FROM CAREY - How We've Used God's Resources

**"Well done, thou good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things; I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of the Lord."**

**Matthew 25:21**

Last week's letter focused on the talents parable and how God has provided some major resources to us, especially gifts and student fees. This week the accompanying chart shows how we have spent resources on strategies to improve our College.

### 1988-89 INCREASING INSOLVENCY

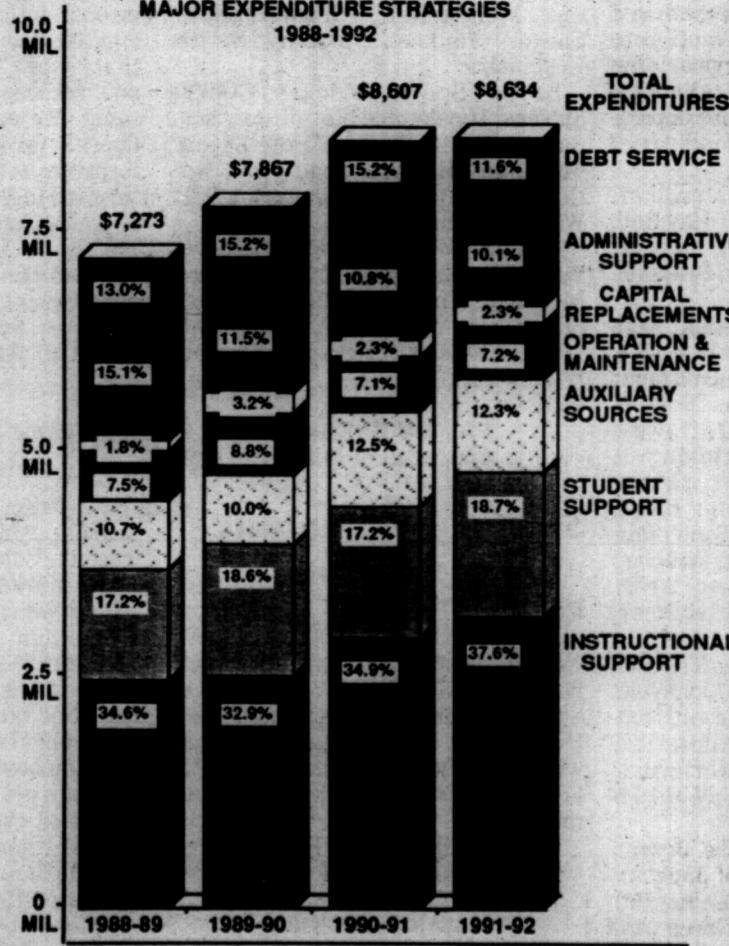
A sage once said, "begin at the beginning." I'll begin in 1988-89 when it was clear the College had expended its' resources to near insolvency. The chart shows 13% (\$950,000) of \$7.3 million was spent servicing debt incurred over many years. Capital replacements were negligible--1.8 cents of each dollar spent--and maintenance outlays for student housing, the cafeteria, and academic areas continued a long pattern of decline. Student support outlays--especially marketing and admissions were well below average (17%). The same was true for faculty and library support (34.6%). As people lost sight of years of progress, these problems were accentuated in early 1989 by several factors--lower gift support, personnel cuts, mounting unpaid bills, and enrollment uncertainties. The College was on the brink of insolvency.

### 1989-90 REFINANCING AND TRANSITION

The MBC Education Commission and the 10-year SACS reports became catalysts for positive changes. Trustees, alumni, faculty and staff, students, and a Denominational Advisory Council began to focus severely limited resources in the same direction. Debt service increased to 15.2% (\$1,200,000) because the MBC supported bank refinancing brought greatly needed short-term stability and higher principal and interest payments. More investment in

student marketing, even with cuts in scholarships, significantly increased enrollment. Moderate capital improvements, increased maintenance and library and faculty support began paying dividends. New administrative appointments continued the progress toward full SACS accreditation.

WILLIAM CAREY COLLEGE  
MAJOR EXPENDITURE STRATEGIES  
1988-1992



### 1990-91 REAFFIRMATION AND RESTRUCTURING

As the College continued its reaffirmation with the MBC and other supporters, increased student tuition revenues, administrative restructuring, deficit reductions, better auxiliaries, some improved giving, and a 5-year strategic plan provided the margin for SACS' reaffirmed accreditation in December 1990.

However, success always has a price. Accreditation-related instructional, library, and other support for a larger student body must continue. Debt service continues to increase and now totals \$1,300,000, more than the entire MBC annual allocations to the College. With 1991-92 expenditure totals being essentially frozen, the result is capital, maintenance, and some personnel costs are again being reduced. For now, there are few other choices. The current availability of lower interest rates makes another debt restructuring a prudent choice.

### 1991-92 MOVING TOWARD HEALTH

We will move toward improved financial health in 1992. Today, we are much healthier than two years ago, but we are not yet strong financially. Why? The total debt of the College has just this year been reduced to less than the total annual revenues--approximately \$8 million!

"Well done" is both a relative and absolute statement. It depends on the context and constraints on expected results. Given the extremely limited resources available over a long period of years, the growth and development of the College has been very significant. Given the very heavy debt structure that is part of that growth legacy, future health will depend greatly on the answer to last week's question--"Students or Gifts?" The answer is obviously a lot of both! We will focus faithfully on improving these two things and trust God to give us greater things for His service.

P.S. Next Week -- A Better Debt Strategy

# Just for the Record



Mt. Pisgah Church, Sandhill, will celebrate its 160th anniversary on May 19 at 11 a.m. A covered dish meal will be served in fellowship hall at noon. Services will be held at 6:45 p.m. Former pastors will be on program. John Price is pastor.

Clarke College hosted a Senior Adult Conference sponsored by the Discipleship Training Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, April 11. Guest speakers for the day were J. Clark Hensley, special worker with Discipleship Training Department, and Lowrey Compere, president emeritus at Clarke College. Lunch was served in the cafeteria to approximately 200 senior adults. The Clarke College Singers, directed by Clark Adams, presented a program of music.

## Names in the news

A deacon ordination service will be held at Oak Grove Church in Mississippi Association, May 19, at 2:30 p.m. Ordained will be Lamar McKenzie and J. R. Westbrook.

## Acteens leaders' weekender to be held June 7-8

Acteens leaders from across the state will gather at Camp Garaywa, June 7-8, for a "get-away" weekend.

Theme for the weekender is FOCUSED. Program features will include Bible study, prayer times, a Studiact workshop, fun, and fellowship. Cost is \$21.

Marti Solomon, National Acteens consultant, Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, and Helen Price, mental health consultant from McComb, will be special guests.

The weekender will begin Friday night with a banquet at 6:30 and conclude Saturday around 3 p.m.

Participants need to bring sheets, towels, bathcloth, pillowcase, Bible, and new Studiact books. Book store with new materials will be available. Bring comfortable and casual clothes and shoes. The pool will be available for those who want to swim.

For registration information, call the WMU office, 968-3800.

## Senior adult corner

Vaiden Church, Vaiden, will observe Senior Adult Day May 19. W. Lowrey Compere, president emeritus, Clarke College, will give a dramatic presentation of the gospel of Mark at both the 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. services. Leon Holly is pastor.

Grace Church, Laurel, held a note burning during morning worship service, Dec. 23, 1990. The note represented a total debt of \$130,000 for the church building. Shown are, left to right, Melvin Scruggs, deacon; Mac Parker, pastor; E. W. Williams, deacon; Lynard Henderson, trustee; and L. D. Gatlin, deacon. The church is now concentrating on a fund for a new educational/fellowship hall. The church would like to acknowledge the passing of its oldest member, Irma Cornett, on March 28.

Ridgeway Church, Vicksburg, was the scene of a presentation called "Christ In The Passover" on April 7. Jerome A. Kaplowitz, a Jewish believer in Jesus, demonstrated to members during the evening service the Old Testament roots of the modern Jewish celebration and the messianic significance of the holiday.

According to Michael Hunt, pastor of Ridgeway Church, the event was extremely informative.

In addition to reviewing the history of the events leading to the exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, Kaplowitz detailed the elements used during the Jewish Passover meal, the importance of the unleavened bread to Christians, and the establishment of the ordinance of the Lord's Supper.

Kaplowitz is a member of Woodlawn Church, Vicksburg. He accepted Christ as his personal Messiah on Friday, July 13, 1979.

Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven, on April 21 broke its all-time high attendance record in Sunday School with 310 people in Bible study. The previous high was 244 which was set in April 1990. The special emphasis was Friend Day. Every church member was challenged to invite a friend to Bible study.



Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven, on April 21 broke its all-time high attendance record in Sunday School with 310 people in Bible study. The previous high was 244 which was set in April 1990. The special emphasis was Friend Day. Every church member was challenged to invite a friend to Bible study.

In the past two years, the church has grown from an average of 108 in Bible study to an average of 165. Sherra Smith, Sunday School director, and Greg Potts, pastor, are pictured.

## Church Related Vocations honors William Clawson

William Clawson, professor emeritus at William Carey College, was honored by the Church Related Vocations Fellowship during their last meeting on May 2. Clawson retired in 1988 after 25 years as a faculty member at the college. During the years on the faculty, he was active in the work of the Board of Ministerial Education, Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Clawson was asked to serve as an adjunct professor on the Hattiesburg campus in the School of Missions and Biblical Studies for the fall and spring semester of 1990-91 school year. During the time, he was active in the CRV Fellowship.

Hardy R. Denham Jr., coordinator for CRV Programs, paid tribute to Clawson for his years of service at the college and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation during the CRV Fellowship meeting.

Marti Solomon, National Acteens consultant, Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, and Helen Price, mental health consultant from McComb, will be special guests.

The weekender will begin Friday night with a banquet at 6:30 and conclude Saturday around 3 p.m.

Participants need to bring sheets, towels, bathcloth, pillowcase, Bible, and new Studiact books. Book store with new materials will be available. Bring comfortable and casual clothes and shoes. The pool will be available for those who want to swim.



Solomon

Rex R. Pearce, 88, a Mississippian and former chairman of the Department of Social Sciences at Mississippi College, died of cancer May 3 at his home in Jacksonville, Fla.

Services were held May 7 at Wright and Ferguson Funeral Home, Jackson, with burial in Lakewood Cemetery.

He served as professor of sociology and secretary to the faculty at Mississippi College, 1948-1971. From 1934-1948, he taught at Copiah-Lincoln Junior College.

Pearce received degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi and the University of Mississippi. He was a member of First Church in Clinton and Wesson Church, serving in capacities including Sunday School teacher and deacon.

Survivors include his wife, Jessie; sons, Herbert R. Pearce of Jacksonville and Dudley Pearce of Winchester, Va.; nine grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.

Thursday, May 16, 1991

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9



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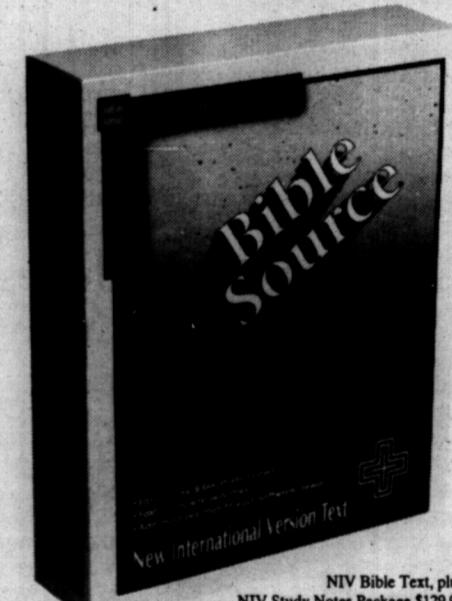
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## Richardson will speak at MC graduation ceremonies

The regular session of the 165th academic year at Mississippi College will come to a close on May 18, with the awarding of 651 degrees, the largest class ever in the history of the college.

The ceremonies are scheduled for 2 p.m. in the A. E. Wood Coliseum on campus with James M. Richardson, pastor of the First Church, Madison, as speaker. Richardson is a 1948 graduate of Mississippi College and a past president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. He has also served on the board of both the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board, SBC.

Appearing on the commencement program with Richardson will be the Major C. Speights, pastor of First Church, LaPlace, La., who will give the invocation; and Troy B. Land, pastor of Trinity Church, West Point, who will give the benediction.

Two distinguished alumni will receive honorary degrees. The Honorable Roy Noble Lee, chief



Richardson

justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court, will be presented the honorary doctor of laws degree, while David W. Goodman, professor of chemistry at Texas A & M University, will receive the doctor of science degree. Lee is a 1938 graduate of Mississippi College and Goodman received his undergraduate degree from the college in 1968.

Lewis Nobles, president of Mississippi College, will preside over the program and will confer the degrees.

Of the 651 degrees, 436 will receive undergraduate degrees, 123 graduate degrees, and 92 the doctor of jurisprudence degree from the School of Law.

Prior to the Saturday afternoon ceremonies, the graduating class will be honored at a senior breakfast in the B.C. Rogers Student Center. This will be followed by rehearsal for graduation at 9:30 a.m. Other morning ceremonies will include nursing pinning in Spell Auditorium of Provine Chapel, with a reception immediately afterwards, and a hooding ceremony by the School of Law in First Church, Clinton, followed by a luncheon in the B.C. Rogers Student Center.

## Baptists budget \$2.4 million as Mideast relief gears up

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptist relief efforts for Kurdish refugees and other victims of war in the Middle East are taking shape — at a potential cost of \$2.4 million or more.

A C-130 cargo plane left South Bend, Ind., May 1 carrying relief equipment, supplies, and medicines to outfit four Southern Baptist feeding stations in Iran and two medical ministry posts along the Turkey-Iraq border.

Four field kitchens shipped on the cargo plane will be manned by Southern Baptist volunteers in Iran to prepare two meals a day for 100,000 Kurdish refugees. Some one million Kurds fled to Iran fearing Saddam Hussein's forces after an unsuccessful rebellion against his rule. Their exodus has mushroomed into an international crisis of disease, malnutrition, and exposure to cold in the mountainous region. More than half a million Kurds also fled toward the Turkey-Iraq border.

To date, Southern Baptist Mideast relief efforts have involved more than 100 missionaries, staff members of the Foreign Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and Texas Baptists, and volunteers from several states.

The relief effort will deplete the Foreign Mission Board's general relief fund, said John Cheyne, who coordinates the board's human needs ministries.

Although coordinated and largely financed by Southern Baptists, the relief ministry has become interdenominational and international in scope.

The C-130 cargo plane is operated by the LeSEA Global Feed the Hungry ministry of South Bend, Ind., headed by evangelist Lester Sumrall. LeSEA acquired the C-130 six months ago, spending some \$2 million for the purchase and improvements to meet federal standards, said Ken Gill of the ministry's staff. The plane, named

Mercy Ship Zoe, made its 6,000-mile maiden voyage in April delivering food supplements, medical supplies, and building materials to Guatemala and Nicaragua, Gill said.

Additionally, Korean Baptists have sent a survey team to Iran to explore medical ministry possibilities by Korean volunteers through the feeding program. Two Korean physicians are on the team, including the medical director at Wallace Memorial Baptist Hospital in Pusan, and Southern Baptist physician Dan Jones, of Laurel, Miss.

"Everybody has tried to focus on what particular contribution they can make, and nobody has been concerned about who gets the credit for it," said FMB President Parks. This networking among Christians "is the kind of thing that is essential in our world" for timely and effective ministry, he added.

Southern Baptists have never worked in Iraq. Foreign Mission Board personnel worked in Iran until the Ayatollah Khomeini rose to power in 1979.

The two Southern Baptist medical volunteer teams in southeastern Turkey each consist of two physicians recruited by the Texas Baptist Men's Medical Fellowship and a team leader and interpreter provided by the Foreign Mission Board. Two of the physicians are husband and wife, Kerfoot and Marietta Walker of Tyler, Texas.

Southern Baptists, in their postwar ministry, also have:

— allocated \$92,600 for distribution of Arabic Bibles.

— allocated \$120,000 in FMB hunger funds for food distribution in Baghdad and Basra, Iraq.

— purchased nearly 35,000 blankets to help Kurdish refugees endure the nighttime cold in mountains along the Turkey-Iraq border.

Toalston writes for FMB.

## Staff changes

North Columbia Church, Columbia, Marion Association, has called John E. Reid as minister of music/education, effective March 17. A native of Hattiesburg, he is a graduate of University of Southern Mississippi with a BA degree in music. He also attended Southwestern Seminary. His previous place of service was Trinity Church, Boyd, Texas. He served at North Columbia Church as minister/music/youth from August 1986 - March 1988.

First Church, McComb, has called Byron Malone as minister of students and recreation. He received a bachelor of science, history degree at Mississippi College, and a master of arts in religious education at Southwestern Seminary. His previous place of service was Richland Hills Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

J. A. McCain has accepted the call as pastor of Sardis Church, Hazlehurst, Copiah County. He has a BS degree from Mississippi College and a master of divinity from New Orleans Seminary.

Unity Church, Moselle, has called Greg Smith as minister of music and youth. His previous place of service was New Hope Church. David W. Aultman is pastor.

Grady J. Ross has accepted a call to West Poplarville Church, Pearl River Association, as pastor effective April 14. He attended William Carey College.

Ross was licensed by Graceland Church, Vancleave, Oct. 3, 1982 and ordained by Baxterville Church, Lumberton, Aug. 31, 1986. He has served churches in Hattiesburg, Lumberton, and Columbus.

### Mary Ann Jones will speak, Midway

"HIS" Ministry, with Mary Ann Jones, will present a challenge through music and the spoken word entitled "But Lord . . . I Still Hurt," at Midway Church, Jackson, May 19, during the 10:15 a.m. worship.

Jones is the author of "The Fruit Bearing Branch" and "Speak His Name." She has presented her message in hundreds of churches throughout the Southeast, including more than 90 in Mississippi. The public is invited to be a part of this special service. David Wilkinson is pastor.

With about 135 baptisms per day, Brazil is the most responsive country to the gospel.

Ellis Jones has resigned as pastor of Harlands Creek Church and Holmes Association. He has accepted Hebron Church in Clay County, effective April 28. His address is Rt. 1 Box 273, Pheba, MS 39755. Telephone number — 494-2377.

First Church, McComb, has called Mark Moore as minister of music. He received a bachelor of music education from Mississippi State University, a master of music, voice performance from Louisiana State University, and a doctor of musical arts from Southwestern Seminary.

His previous place of service was First Church, Hazlehurst.

Moore

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# “Tell the gospel message, that all the world may know”

By Benny Still  
Ephesians 3:1-13

Last week while I was serving as a substitute librarian at the Mendenhall High School, one of the students remarked, “Bro. Still, do you carry that Bible with you everywhere you go?”

Another one said, “Sure, he’s a preacher!” The truth is: “No, I don’t carry it with me everywhere.” But I have tried to hide its words in my heart as we all are admonished to do — whether we are preachers or not! God has entrusted us with the responsibility of telling the gospel message to all people.

It’s doubtful that Christians in today’s world are in the majority — but if we were, would people know it? Or, would we be silent in our witness?

In 3:1-6 we see that Paul has shown us that the gospel of redemption is for everyone. He discovered through the revelation of the Holy Spirit that salvation was not just for him or for one nation or for one group of people — but for the whole world (vv. 3-6). He claimed that in



Still

## LIFE AND WORK

years previous, the glorious message of God was monopolized by one nation.

Can you imagine the barriers he faced as he tried to explain the mystery he had received? The mystery is “that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together with one body, and sharers together in the promise of Jesus Christ” (3:6, NIV).

Paul gave his personal testimony of discovering God’s eternal plan for his own life. He told of his surrender to God’s call to proclaim the gospel in order to encourage others to be involved in proclaiming the glorious good news as well (vv. 1-13). His testimony declared that he was the least of all God’s people, but since God’s grace had covered him, he was duly responsible to preach so “that all the world may know” the joy of redemption through Jesus.

A friend recently wrote of his stern disagreement with those preachers of the word who attempted to “share” the gospel message. His contention is that according to Paul in 1 Corin-

thians 1:21, “It is through the foolishness of preaching that God chose to save them that believed.” If God’s word is true, then we as God’s ministers should not only be “sharing,” but “preaching” the word of God so that they may truly believe and receive the gift God’s offered us through his Son, Jesus. We need to be more conscious of the divine appointment we have from God — not just as preachers of the word, but as Christian brothers and sisters, equally responsible for getting the word out! You see, the work of the church is to share and preach the gospel (3:10).

Sometimes we may feel inadequate to relate to others what we have experienced through Christ. In 3:11-13, Paul reminds us that since we Christians have a special relationship to God, we have the courage, assurance, and divine support needed to proclaim the gospel. Having it and using it are two different things! All of us have probably lost a set of keys at some time in our lives. You know the exasperation we feel in retracing our steps and in looking for what we need to open a door or start an engine. Remember the relief when you finally found them — in your pocket!!! Is the scenario of the keys akin to our search for confidence, assurance, and courage to share God’s love to others? God has promised us that his power and

strength, even his very words are at our disposal. All we have to do is use them!

Why do you suppose Paul was so committed to sharing the gospel of redemption with all people? His own testimony was that he had done everything in his power to destroy the church and Christian movement prior to his encounter with Jesus on the Damascus Road. He remembered the change that had taken place. He remembered the total darkness he had experienced before arriving at the house of Judas and his confrontation with Ananias. He remembered the filling of the Holy Spirit that had taken place simultaneously when the scales fell from his blinded eyes. Yes, he remembered! Do we need to do some remembering as to where we were before our encounter with Jesus?

“That all the world may know, please use us Lord, today. That all the world may know, for this we humbly pray. We want your Son to shine, so they can see, eternal life you give, so willingly.” What has God’s grace done in your life? Do you realize that you have a personal responsibility to tell what you know? Let the Lord lead you to someone who needs to hear your experience so they can have one, too!

Still is pastor, Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall.

Still

people.

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## Discovering motives for serving others,

By Ruth N. Allen  
2 Corinthians 5:6-20

In his book, *Very Truly Yours*, Chester Swor told of a woman, toiling all day in the church kitchen as she prepared for a Sweetheart Banquet. All during the morning and afternoon she vividly contemplated the moment when the master of ceremonies would call the workers from the kitchen, and she would reluctantly emerge from the kitchen and stand in the spotlight of attention to receive appropriate accolades and applause from the group.

Inadvertently, the master of ceremonies, having recognized all the other workers, overlooked those in the kitchen. When the lady realized the oversight would not be corrected, she removed her apron, slammed it on the table, and stalked out. As she departed, she was heard to say, “If that’s all the thanks I get, they will have the next banquet without me.”

Her motivation was readily apparent. She was definitely serving for the wrong reason. Self-recognition is an unworthy motive and is always unacceptable. God’s design has always



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been for mankind to be at home and to be in fellowship with him. However, sin broke this fellowship, and God has ever sought to restore the broken fellowship. He has chosen reconciliation as the means for accomplishing the restoration. Consequently, those who know and love God render service to him by serving others.

Paul gives several motives for service. Upon examination of these motives, one should discover ways to serve God and others.

One’s goal is to please God and to be accepted of him (v. 9). Jesus said, “For I always do what pleases him” (John 8:29). God has a life plan for each follower. He is pleased when obedience is practiced by his children. Also, there will come a day when all people will stand in judgment before God. Acceptance by God, on judgment day, helps motivate believers to higher service.

The reverential fear of God’s judgment prompts persuasive actions to bring others to repentance (v. 11). The fear is best understood as the “awe” which Moses experienced when he realized he was standing on holy ground. Many people have lost the ability to be “awed.”

Society is overwhelmed with high tech devices which tend to dazzle and baffle the mind. Consequently, people have been conditioned to expect the spectacular. If God’s people could learn to stand in awe not only of God’s power but also his wrath, more ways would be discovered to persuade people to serve God’s purpose.

“The love of Christ constrains us” (v. 14). Christians are motivated by their love for Jesus to serve and help others. During the recent conflict in the Persian Gulf, Thelma Livingston, who lives in Eva, Ala., carried on a tradition started over 50 years ago. At 75 years of age, she wrote 30 men and women stationed in the Persian Gulf area. When asked why she had done this through all the years, she replied, “I am a wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, so what more reason do I need?” She was motivated by love to care for “her” soldiers.

One must live for Jesus and not for oneself (v. 15). Until a person knows Jesus, there is a tendency to be self-centered. However, when Jesus takes over a life, he becomes the focus of attention and service. The worldly point of view no longer exists because the Christian becomes a new creation in Christ. Therefore, the Christian thinks differently, acts differently, and serves his master with a different

motive. Service for Christ, by serving others, becomes a motivating force.

Christians have been given a ministry of reconciliation (v. 18). Believers become agents of reconciliation, a person who produces an effect. As agents of reconciliation and servants of Christ, people are brought back to God, and the broken relationship is repaired. Christ has given his people the message of reconciliation in verse 19. God makes his appeal to the world through his followers to whom he has entrusted the message of reconciliation.

In one of his books, E. Stanley Jones defines conversion. “Conversion,” he says, “is that change, sudden or gradual, by which we pass from the kingdom of self to the Kingdom of God by the grace and power of Christ.” The important thing, as emphasized by Jones, is not how you arrived but have you arrived? When a person puts the Kingdom of God and his righteousness first in his life, and relegates the kingdom of self to second place, this is a definite sign he has arrived.

If one has been converted, one has the message of reconciliation. Because of Jesus’ love, a believer will also love others and diligently seek to discover motives for service.

Allen of Jackson, is the wife of Judd Allen, pastor of Ogden Church, Bentonia.

## Father ate sour grapes; children’s teeth set on edge

By Jerry Vardaman  
2 Sam. 13:1-14:33

The title of this lesson comes from Ezekiel 18:2 — “... The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge.”

Ezekiel was speaking of moral problems and their consequences in his day, but he could have used the same illustration for the time of David — or, for our time. David paved the way for the breakdown of morality in his home. His children reaped many of the consequences of his carelessness about God’s demands for lofty moral standards.

Children establish their sense of values not just from the words which their parents leave with them. They establish their conduct by conforming to the pattern of life which their parents present to them. As someone has said, “With children it is not just what is taught; it is also what is caught.” David’s children knew of his failings in morality, and the practice of adultery they saw in his life in his affair with Bathsheba spilled over into the life of one of his favorite sons — that of Absalom.

The tragedy of Absalom is remembered today by secular writers — besides Dryden we



Vardaman

## BIBLE BOOK

are thinking here especially of the Mississippi writer, William Faulkner, in his novel, *Absalom, Absalom!* The book depicts the life of an overambitious man who was in a hurry to make wealth at all costs — and careless in his moral choices. Eventually, his chickens all “came home to roost,” and his life proved to be a ghastly tale of deceit and tragedy. We turn now, however, to deal with the original Absalom and, hopefully, in studying his life, to profit by avoiding his pitfalls. As with David, Absalom let one sin lead him deeper and deeper into sin.

1) **Absalom Harbors Hatred for his Brother** — Since the story of Absalom is very well known, we will only highlight the features of the story here (2 Sam. 13 and 14). Absalom had a lovely sister named Tamar. His half-brother named Amnon was attracted to her physically and sought an opportunity to take her to bed. That opportunity finally came — through deception. When the act was over, Amnon’s “love” for his sister was over, and he put her out of his house. Absalom learned of his brother’s actions and plotted long and hard until he finally had an opportunity to even the record by killing Amnon during a festival of

sheepshearing.

2) **Absalom Instructs his Servants to Kill Amnon** — Then Absalom fled to the land of Geshur an Aramaic-speaking territory from whence his mother came. (2 Sam. 3:3); his mother was Maacah, daughter of Talmai. Likely, there was an ulterior motive which Absalom had besides revenge in plotting the death of his brother, Amnon. Amnon stood in his way to inherit kingship after the death of David. Amnon was David’s firstborn son (2 Sam. 3:2). David’s second son, Chileab, seems to have died young or, at least, we never see him alive at this time. If Absalom could remove Amnon, no one would stand in his way to take over the throne. While the Scripture only alludes to it, there is a good likelihood that Joab helped Absalom return from Geshur with the promise that Joab’s own power would be greatly increased if Absalom could once more get into the favor of his father David and be in line to succeed him on the throne. Absalom was a clever plotter. One must not underestimate the degree of evil of which even a young person can be guilty. On one occasion I confronted a relatively young man about his need of Christ instead of relying on his own “goodness,” as he was doing. I am still shocked by the depth of his guilt as he insultingly and knowingly rejected Jesus as Lord and relied instead on his own empty and non-existent “goodness.” In any case, Joab saw that David did love Ab-

salom, wanted him back and used the wise woman of Tekoa (only 5 miles south of Bethlehem, David’s home) to persuade David to let Absalom back into his territory.

3) **Absalom Plots the Overthrow of David, his Father** — For two full years (2 Sam. 14:28) neither David nor Joab had anything to do with Absalom after his return from the land of Geshur (this country is on the east side of the Sea of Galilee in the direction of Syria, the main Aramaic-speaking area). Likely, in this period of his rejection, Absalom had a lot of time to let his hatred for his father David build up and finally to plot his overthrow. This wicked act of Absalom is altogether shown to be more despicable since David finally did accept his son and even kissed him (2 Sam. 14:33). If Absalom had been of the right “stuff” and could have shown that he possessed the proper character, he stood a good chance to become the legitimate king instead of Solomon, his brother. The evil directions in which he ventured ultimately led to his defeat and death. It is sad when anyone thinks that evil will lead to success and power. Absalom’s failure should speak clearly to all thinking persons today, just as it did in David’s time.

Vardaman is professor of Archaeology, Mississippi State University.

# capsules

**U.S. MEDICAL TEAM REPAIRS EYES OF ROMANIAN ORPHANS:** BUCHAREST, Romania (EP) — A 14-member volunteer eye surgery team sponsored by Northwest Medical Teams International (NWMTI) recently returned from a two-week trip to Bucharest, Romania, where they performed corrective surgery on 48 orphans. Because of their crossed eyes, the children were repeatedly overlooked by prospective adopted parents, although they were normal in every other way. Corrective surgery will give the children an opportunity for a more normal life and greater chances for adoption.

**NEW, IMPROVED SBC HANDBOOK AVAILABLE THIS SUMMER — NASHVILLE** — Everything Southern Baptists wanted to know about themselves but did not know where to find it is likely referenced in the new "Southern Baptist Handbook" scheduled for release in June. Compiled by the Sunday School Board's Church Administration Department, the handbook is "a definitive resource" on Southern Baptist work, according to editor Linda Barr. The handbook, which will be available at the Southern Baptist Convention meeting June 4-6 in Atlanta and at Baptist Book Stores in July, was previously included in the July-August-September edition of "The Quarterly Review." That magazine was discontinued in October 1990. The handbook will now be published as a separate piece.

**SOUTHERN BAPTISTS TO RELEASE A BOOK IN RUSSIAN: NASHVILLE** — During the International Book Fair in Moscow, Sept. 3-9, the Baptist Sunday School Board (SBC) will distribute the book "What It Means To Be Born Again." The book was originally prepared by Johnnie Godwin to coincide with the inauguration of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, a Baptist Sunday School teacher who defined himself as a "born-again believer." The book has now been translated into Russian. — EBPS

**INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS INSTITUTES INC. ANNOUNCES THAT CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN SIGNED WITH THE SOVIET REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN** establishing the Kazakh-American International Business Institute. Applications are being accepted for the following positions: Rector (serves like a vice president for academic affairs; English teacher, eight needed (MA in TESOL preferred); computer teachers, four needed (basic computer applications); marketing professor, management professor, and economics professor (MBA and experience preferred); and service assistant, two needed (procurement; purchasing, maintenance, and transportation). Financial costs for American staff while in Kazakhstan will be covered by the Soviet partners under the terms of the joint agreement. Costs of transportation and US-based expenses will be sought through prayer and financial support teams. For more information and applications for service contact Foreign Mission Board, c/o Mike Barnett, P. O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va 23230-0767, (804) 353-0151.

**FOCUSING ON THE FORGOTTEN EPIDEMIC** — In his latest book, *It's Killing Our Kids* (Word Publishing, \$8.99), Jerry Johnston paints a clear picture of alcohol's allure — and danger — for teens. Johnston, a noted expert on youth-related problems, gives invaluable insights into why teens drink, what they know and don't know about alcohol, how their family lives can lead to alcohol abuse, and how a parent can spot an alcohol problem in his son or daughter. Johnston dwells extensively on the singular horror of drunken driving and its effects, and urges all teens to make the commitment, "I will not drink and drive." *It's Killing Our Kids* provides motivation for teens to face the tough choices about drinking and for parents to communicate more honestly with their children. It also provides useful tools for overcoming the formidable obstacle of alcohol.

**CHURCH ATTENDANCE IN ENGLAND DIPS: LONDON, ENGLAND** — Christian churches in England continue the disturbing trend downward, according to MARC Europe's 1989 census of English churches. Results showed that 5 million people stopped attending church between 1979 and 1989. Seven out of ten of these were under the age of 20. The survey also revealed that independent churches grew 42 percent during the decade. This figure includes a 114 percent increase in house church attendance. English Baptist church attendance, which had shown decline up to 1985, grew by 2 percent between 1985 and 1989. The census was described by the new Archbishop of Canterbury as "the most thorough and comprehensive survey ever done of English churchgoing." — EBPS

**FIRST COMMENTARY VOLUME TO BE AVAILABLE IN JUNE — NASHVILLE** — The first volume of "The New American Commentary" will be released by the Sunday School Board's Broadman Press during the annual Southern Baptist Convention meeting June 4-6 in Atlanta. "Philippians/Colossians/Philemon," written by Richard R. Melick Jr., professor and chairman of the Greek and New Testament departments at Mid-America Seminary in Memphis, Tenn., is the first installment of the 40-volume commentary. The book will be available at the SBC bookstore in Atlanta and will arrive at Baptist Book Stores by June 7. The second volume of the series, "Mark," by James A. Brooks, professor of New Testament at Bethel Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., will be released in September. Brooks was formerly on the faculty at New Orleans and Southwestern seminaries. The first two commentary volumes are being sold at an introductory price of \$19.95 — \$3 off the retail price — through Dec. 31.

**THE WALT DISNEY CORPORATION** recently announced that they will try to televise a nationwide lottery. Christians are strongly encouraged to write Disney Chairman Michael Eisner and urge him not to follow through with this proposal. The address is Chrm. Michael Eisner, The Walt Disney Corporation, 500 S. Buena Vista, Burbank, CA 91521.

# Mega churches could replace denominations, Schaller says

By Sarah Zimmerman

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — Mega churches do not compete with small churches, but they could replace denominational structures, a church growth analyst said.

Lyle Schaller, a United Methodist and parish consultant for the Yokefellow Institute in Richmond, Ind., said programs define mega churches more than size.

A church which averages 500 in worship is a mega church if its ministry extends beyond Sunday and Wednesday services, Schaller said.

"Seven-day-a-week churches have a place for everybody," Schaller told 138 church leaders attending a Home Mission Board conference in Indianapolis. This variety of programs attracts people from all social, economic, and racial backgrounds.

As such churches grow, they offer services traditionally provided by their denomination, Schaller said. They own publishing houses, operate camps, and offer continuing education. Future ministers are trained as apprentices on the church staff rather than attending seminary.

Leaders of churches which function independently often think they do not need a denominational affiliation, or

they say, "The denomination needs us but we don't need the denomination," Schaller said.

Mega churches typically attract people age 35 and younger — the generation which grew up in big institutions such as high schools with hundreds of people in the graduating classes, Schaller said.

People also are attracted to churches which have expanded their education ministries beyond Sunday School, Schaller added.

"I'm convinced more adults are engaged in serious, in-depth weekly Bible study than ever before in American history," he noted. "The majority of that is not happening on Sunday morning."

"If you're serious about reaching the post World War II generation, it is impossible to over-emphasize the teaching ministry of the church."

Another characteristic of growing seven-day-a-week churches is their emphasis on the transformational power of the gospel, he continued.

"The church hears a transformational message from a transformed messenger," Schaller said. "Because their lives have been transformed, they cannot help but tell other people

about that and invite them to come to the place where their lives were changed."

Large churches, especially those with televised services, set the community's expectations of a church, Schaller said. Yet small churches should be challenged rather than threatened by seven-day-a-week churches, he explained.

"Seven-day-a-week churches are not in competition with smaller churches. They are in competition with each other."

"The real squeeze is on the church with 260 people in worship," Schaller said. Medium sized churches can't compete with the intimacy of small churches or the variety of programs offered by mega churches, he added.

Churches with fewer than 100 in worship offer a closeness rarely found in large churches. People who want to belong to a place where everyone knows their name will continue to attend small churches, Schaller said.

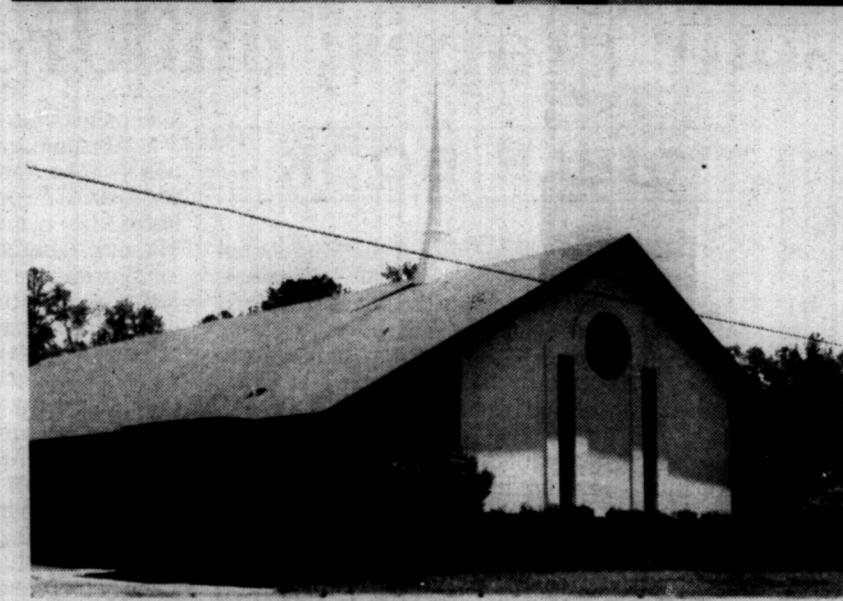
Schaller's advice to small churches is, "Pick out what you do and do it well. Don't try to copy your big neighbor down the street. Be who you are and be good at who you are."

Zimmerman writes for HMB.

## SUBSCRIBER SERVICES

The Baptist Record offers three church subscription plans and an individual subscription plan. The three church plans are the Every Family Plan, the Budget Plan, and the Club Plan.

To qualify for the Every Family Plan, a church must subscribe for all of its residence families. The rate for the Every Family Plan is only 45¢ per family per month (\$5.40 per year). The Budget Plan requires that a church subscribe for a minimum of 50 percent of its resident families and the rate is 46¢ per family per month (\$5.52 per year). The Club Plan allows churches to subscribe with a minimum of five families. Any number of subscribers falling under 50 percent of a church's resident families would be a Club Plan subscriber at 56¢ per family per month (\$6.72 per year). Individual subscriptions are \$7.35 per year.



### Paul Truitt Memorial to dedicate sanctuary

Paul Truitt Memorial Church, Pearl, will dedicate its newly renovated auditorium on Sunday, May 19. The \$275,000 project also included new pews, new hymnals, new choir robes, new sound system, and new stained glass windows. The whole interior of the building was completely redone. On May 19, the pastor, Jimmie Wood, will preach and lead in the special service at 10:30 a.m. A covered dish lunch will be served at the church. This work was started the first Sunday in January, Wood said. The congregation began worshiping in the building again on Easter Sunday, though the work was not then complete. Mrs. Kay Basden, wife of the minister of music, was chairman of the Building Committee.

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